BIG NAME EXCLUSIVES

WORLD SOCCER

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BLACKBURN BOOM

I'M NOT FINISHED — Italy's Schillaci

GULLIT+ PAPIN MILAN RIVALS

Walter Smith— Britain's top boss

U.S. Mission Impossible

REAL MADRID CRISIS

FEBRUARY 1993 Vol.33 No.5

Contents

2-3 **Crosstalk . . .** Jean-Pierre Papin and Ruud Gullit talking of Holland, France and Italy.

4-5 **Keir Radnedge Commentary . . .** an incisive look at the soccer scene.

6-7 **News . . .** Rai for Paris SG; Scottish League stalemate; why Stoichkov wept.

8-31 **European Scene . . .** our correspondents across the Continent review the past and look at the future with features on Stefan Beckenbauer, Toto Schillaci, Eastern Europe's Four Wise Men, and the Real Madrid crisis.

18-19 **Brooking Talkback . . .** former England international Trevor Brooking replies to letters from readers.

32-33 **Top of the Hampden heap . . .** Walter Smith, manager of Rangers.

34-38 **United Kingdom . . .** the scene in the home countries, including features on Blackburn's revival and Ron Atkinson of Aston Villa.

40-43 **Diary . . .** plus TV soccer schedules, quiz and crossword.

44-47 **Africa . . .** reports, statistics and fixtures.

48-51 **South America . . .** another title for Sao Paulo and round-up country by country.

52 **Asia . . .** reports and details.

53 **Team group . . .** PSV Eindhoven.

54 **North America . . .** Mission Impossible in the States.

56-61 **Results . . .** the invaluable service, including World Cup and domestic facts and figures.

62-63 **Glanville's Last Word . . .** a top columnist's individual view.

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Gullit . . . 100 per cent fit again.

PLEA AND

RUUD GULLIT and JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN tell special reporter HANSI **MULLER** of ESM about the delights and dangers of competing for places at Milan

WS: How did you feel at the start of this season, having to sit in the stand even though you were fully fit and available to play? Wasn't that a new experience — or, at least, one you haven't known for a very long time?

RG: The first few weeks of this season were very hard. I wasn't used to having to fight for my place in the team. That's not to say, of course, that I used to take it easy. I have never taken it for granted that I should be a first-team player. I have always tried my hardest to justify my place. But justifying your place and battling for your place are two different things.

J-PP: I understand that exactly. Look, I came to Milan last summer as the current European Footballer of the Year and after Milan had paid an enormous sum of money to buy me from Marseille. Then I played less than an hour of the first league game and sat in the stand for the next three. That was a big shock to my system. Of course, I knew when I arrived that there would be competition for the foreigners' places but it had not registered with me precisely what that would mean. I found it very, very difficult. I just had to remind myself that it taken great strength of character to come this far in my career and I had to apply that strength now. I had to work just as hard as I could to earn my place. Yes, it was a new experience.

WS: What was it like, coming back to training every Monday alongside colleagues who had not only been playing in the team the previous day but had been playing very well and winning all their matches?

J-PP: It was awful. I felt as if I didn't belong. As I said, I hadn't prepared myself for it. For example, when I signed the original contract with Milan I was expecting there would be "only" four foreigners. Savicevic, I understood, wouldn't come until next season. As for Boban, I knew Milan had signed him and loaned him out to Bari and it was thought that he would then be sent on loan to Marseille as part of my own transfer package. Of course, things didn't work out like that. The Savicevic deal had to go ahead in a hurry because of the collapse of Yugoslavia as a football nation and then Boban didn't want to go to Marseille. I'm not complaining about the business and I'm not saying I was misled in any way. Things change very quickly in football. You must accept it. Nobody could have foreseen what would happen with Yugoslavia. As for Boban, he preferred to take his chance at Milan and he had a perfect right to make his own decision.

WS: Isn't this stockpiling of players symptomatic almost of a sense of greed for money and power in top-level football?

RG: Perhaps. It depends on the motives of the various people involved. I can speak only about Milan where our president, Silvio Berlusconi, expected we would have to play a lot of matches in all our competitions this season and wanted to make sure the coach, Fabio Capello, could field as strong a team as possible in every single game. It was only later that the Italian Federation decided formally that only three foreigners could be picked for each league match.

WS: Rudi Voller, who left AS Roma for Marseille last summer, has gone on record as saying the present situation in Italy with foreign players is "a scandal" and that Italian football does not understand what damage it has caused the game as a whole. Has he got a point?

RG: It's easy for Rudi to say that now he doesn't play his football in Italy any more. He's not alone. Diego Maradona and Jurgen Klinsmann have said similar things. Of course, they don't play in Italy any more, either. For the foreigners still living and working and playing football in Italy saying what we may think is not so simple. This is where we play; this is where we earn our living. Talking is not so important. What matters to me is playing and that's what I wish to concentrate on.

WS: But isn't it grotesque, absurd, that Papin and Gullit, two of the finest footballers in the world, are rivals for the place of third foreigner and that at least one must sit in the stand, assuming that Van Basten and Rijkaard are fit to play?

J-PP: It's hard to understand, I know. But it's not merely the foreigners who have this problem at Milan. The club has a squad of 20 players, all of whom would certainly be a fixture in any other team in Italy, probably in the world. Certainly, to use your word, the situation earlier this season was grotesque with

SURE PAIN

Boban . . . loaned out, and Voller . . . hitting out.

Papin . . . 100 per cent effort every time.

Ruud playing one week, me another. But we had no option but to accept it, hard as it was.

RG: It's very tricky trying to discuss this. The one thing I would say is that I've never resented Jean-Pierre's role in all this.

J-PP: Yes, I must add some players would have made life extra difficult for me in this situation but not Ruud: he is a great professional.

RG: . . . and we have, since those first weeks, played side by side in the team, I think, very successfully. Now, with Marco Van Basten injured, we will both be there rather more often — hopefully!

WS: But there are no guarantees.

J-PP: No. No guarantees. For one thing, the tactics we use vary from game to game according to the match and the opposition. The coach picks his team according to the tactics he wants to use, not to suit the foreign players.

WS: How do players such as Boban, who would be a superstar anywhere else, cope with almost never starting a match?

RG: Boban has said to me that he accepts he is young and he wants to use this present time at Milan as part of his football education. He's 24, the same age as Van Basten, Rijkaard and I were when we first came to Milan. He's got the advantage over us in terms of years. We know it. He knows it. So he tries to think positive and work hard in training.

WS: The rest of the world has been amazed this season to see that, despite having all these stars sitting in the stands, so many goals are being scored in the Italian league. Italian football was always synomymous with defensive football, with catenaccio. What's changed all of a sudden?

RG: There's several reasons for what's happened. For one thing, the foreign players who are in the first teams know they dare not relax. They cannot take their place for granted, as perhaps some did in the past. They must give their utmost in every minute of every game. More important, however, is the change in the back-pass rule. Last season, for example, plenty of teams who wanted to hold on to a win, or even a draw, just stopped playing football 15 minutes before the final whistle. All they would do was push the ball around between them and back to the goalkeeper just to waste time.

WS: So is the new rule killing catenaccio?

RG: You could say that. The new rule is certainly working in a very positive way and I'm all in favour of it. It's not that defenders in Italy have suddenly become bad players overnight.

WS: Papin, from being king of the castle in Marseille you are now . . .

J-PP: . . . I know, just one of the team! I can assure you that's no problem. It eases the pressure, even. And playing alongside Marco Van Basten in attack, when I get the chance, is the stuff of dreams.

WS: Your Marseille team were the No. 1 in France . . .

J-PP: In Europe!

WS: Now your Milan are No. 1 in Italy . . .

J-PP: Again I must say, in Europe!

WS: Then, could you compare the two clubs?

J-PP: That's impossible because Milan are incomparable. Everything here is bigger and better than at Marseille. That's talking in terms of the clubs in general. I suppose the only comparison possible is between the teams — and that is, hopefully, what we will find out in the Champions' Cup Final this season. The set-up here — the organisation, the training, the training centre at Milanello, the Stadio Meazza itself . . . there's nothing like it anywhere. The fanatical support of the fans was the same in Marseille. The difference here, though, is that we get more than twice as many supporters at each game. Milan have 73,000 season-ticket holders. That's unbelievable. This truly is the centre of world football.

WS: What does the future hold for Ruud Gullit? You have been a offered a contract extension to stay at Milan until 1995. Have you signed it?

RG: No, my present contract expires this summer. Very soon I must decide what to do. At the moment I don't know whether to stay or even quite how long I want to go on playing at top level. One thing I can tell you: I am 100 per cent fit.

WS: Isn't there a danger that Milan will destroy competitive interest within the Italian league?

RG: Just the opposite. Everyone wants to be the first team to beat Milan, to topple Milan. That drives the rest on even harder than before. And if one team manage it, then others will be encouraged to believe they can do the same.

WS: The success of Milan seems directly inverse to the failures of the Italian national team. Italy failed to qualify for the finals of the European Championship last year, then made a poor start to the World Cup qualifiers with that 2-2 draw against Switzerland and a narrow win in Malta. Why?

RG: Even the best team can drop a result or two in a big competition. I know that from my experience with Holland. I think what's wrong with Italy is only a matter of the players adapting to the new systems being introduced by Arrigo Sacchi, the coach. All he needs is a little time.

WS: How important for Jean-Pierre Papin is the French national team compared with Milan?

J-PP: Absolutely equal. My commitment to both is exactly the same.

WS: But isn't there an extra edge to being captain of your country?

J-PP: I'm very proud of that. It's a psychological bonus, if you like. But nothing works for your confidence like scoring a goal, whichever shirt you are wearing.

WS: Did you discuss with any of your France team-mates your problems when you arrived in Milan?

J-PP: No, there a couple of players in the French national team — like Casoni and Blanc — with whom I am particularly friendly. But if I want to talk things over I prefer the company of some of my friends in Marseille outside football.

WS: A last question for Gullit. After all the success you have achieved, after all the pain of your knee injuries, what keeps you motivated?

RG: Above all, the sheer pleasure I get from playing football. After that, ambition. When I was a kid I always remember Cruyff and Van Hanegem drumming it into me: "Always try to win everything there is." So, I keep trying.

WS: And for Papin: Ruud used to play golf regularly with Brehme. Now Brehme's left Inter, are you Gullit's new golf partner?

J-PP: Golf doesn't really appeal to me as a form of relaxation. I'm a film fan. I've got a private collection of more than 2,000 films.

WS: Have the Italian films helped you learn the language?

J-PP: Not really. I knew some Italian before I came here and very quickly I found I picked up more than enough to get by. Players from some countries find it easier than others. The English, for example, seem to have problems. But I've spoken to Paul Gascoigne in Italian so obviously he's making progress too!

THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

DON'T WORRY— MILAN AND RANGERS WILL BE BEATEN

Almost unstoppable . . . Milan's players keep the goals coming.

FOOTBALL is about competition. That's what drives the game forward: the dynamic forces of triumph and disaster, expectation and fear, titles and relegation, trophies and elimination.

The first stirrings of discontent are being heard from such diverse football nations as Italy and Scotland. In Italy, Milan are running away into a different class; in Scotland, Rangers have accumulated the sort of power which turns the rest (even Celtic) into pygmies by comparison.

Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino has suggested that a transfer system based on the American football draft should be considered, enforcing a more even spread of the available talent. In Scotland surely a key element in the move towards a breakaway Super League is the vague hope that Rangers will, almost by default, drag the rest up behind them.

Milan's achievements are, certainly, ominous. A full calendar year undefeated. A record defeat-free sequence of 50 league matches. A further record-breaking claim to seven successive away victories. But all that adds up to something which Ferlaino and his fellow presidents beyond Milan consider much more sinister.

In these days when football's business base is such a naked concern, success on the pitch is reflected in more spectators through the gates, higher television fees, greater ancillary income through advertising and general commercialism . . . and thus creates the finance to spend bigger fees on the best players, who are attracted by the biggest and best wages.

It's a vicious circle for the rest. For the likes of Silvio Berlusconi and David Murray, at Milan and Rangers, the concept is staggeringly simple: success begets the cash which can beget more success. But — and a very big "but" — it does not do so automatically.

They are heading for a fall, one day

Last month in these columns we discussed Irving Scholar's short-lived vision during his leadership of Tottenham Hotspur.

He made a high-profile appeal for a business approach to running football. But Scholar's ultimate departure proved that, in football, logic is not unassailable.

However impregnable Milan and Rangers may look today, the lessons of football history tell us that they will not remain on their domestic pinnacles for ever. All the great clubs have, at one time or another, fallen from grace.

Real Madrid won the Champions' Cup for the first five years, until Barcelona's ambition and a series of refereeing errors tipped the balance against them.

Brazil were the greatest World Cup nation the game had seen, until complacency set in, a wholly exceptional generation of players disappeared over the hill and a small coterie of effective directors moved on.

Liverpool, to take a most recent domestic case, dominated the English game for 20 years in a way which had always been considered impossible amid the "most competitive league in the world." Why else have so many outsiders take such delight in every stumble and fumble at Anfield?

Simple: football needs a competitive edge. Anyone who blunts it is treading a dangerous path.

Milan may appear unassailable. But as long as their health depends, ultimately, on human beings kicking a football around you can bet that someone, somewhere, some day, will slip up.

And Il Presidente Berlusconi, sitting up in the directors' box, won't be able to do anything about it.

That, as they say, is football.

Fans already worry about 1996

THE Football Supporters' Association already is worried, three years ahead of the big event, that the ordinary fan will be priced out of watching the finals of the 1996 European Championship in England.

A no-punches-pulled section of the FSA's report on last year's finals in Sweden warns that commercial interests may dominate the pricing structure to the detriment of the paying public.

Steve Beauchampe, the FSA's international officer, says: "While we welcome UEFA's award of the finals to England, we don't want it to be viewed as a glorious opportunity to squeeze every last penny out of a public who will have been waiting 30 years to watch such a prestigious football event here.

"Regrettably, the indications we have are that tickets will be very expensive."

FA spokesman Mike Wilmore thought the FSA was being unnecessarily alarmist.

He assures me that the FA is well aware of the need to strike "a happy balance" between commercial probity and fan fervour.

I would guess that the Football Supporters' Association will remain dubious about such assurances. The report on Sweden '92 is not what you might call an "FA-friendly" document.

Back to basics

EASTERN European football faces enormous problems. State funding has gone and that means the federations have been reduced to skeleton staffs and the clubs to penury.

Barter is back for business transactions. Poland's Hutnik Warsaw signed a Russian player in exchange for a television set and a video recorder; another Second Division club signed two players from Kiev in exchange for a lorryload of potatoes.

Gillhaus case sets new slant on transfer tangle

Wanting a change . . . Hans Gillhaus of Holland and Aberdeen.

WHAT happens if the European Commission kills off the transfer system?

That's not an early April Fool question. That could really come to pass thanks to the latest assault on the system being delivered by Hans Gillhaus.

The former Holland striker wants to get away from Aberdeen and go home. There should be no hindrance. After all, his Pittodrie contract expired last summer.

But, on his head, there is a £400,000 fee. And nobody is prepared to stump up so much for an ex-international who is now 29.

The Dutch players' union took his case to Jim Janssen van Raay, a Member of the European Parliament who is also president of FIFpro, the Paris-based international players' union. He, in turn, has gone to the European Commission in Strasbourg.

Aberdeen are not being unnecessarily greedy. They are merely applying the terms of the UEFA formula which purports to work out a fair price for an out-of-contract player based on his age and contract value. But Gillhaus does not consider £400,000 to be fair.

And he knows that the European Commission have long considered the traditional transfer system incompatible with European Community employment legislation.

So, what next? UEFA and FIFA have empowered committees to break the deadlock in individual transfer wrangles. But they have never faced up to the morality — or lack of it — of the transfer system per se.

If the system is one day ruled, literally, out of court, then one of the traditional props of the game will disappear.

Transfer-based finance will cease.

Small clubs will be in mortal danger. Thus I cannot see how football can survive, in a professional form, without some sort of transfer system.

But I do believe that the present arrangements are far from satisfactory.

Players have ridden the system long enough and benefitted from it.

Why should change be up to the game's federations and civil servants?

Instead of complaining, let the players come up with proposals for change . . . for a change.

Bayern v Schalke...note the special shirt logos: "My friend is a foreigner".

KEEPING THE NEO-NAZIS AT BAY

TAKE A hurried glance around Europe and you might think that neo-Nazi hooligans are taking over the stadia. In Italy and Germany top players took a stand against terrace racism.

In Italy players from the top clubs unfurled banners appealing for tolerance; in Germany clubs replaced their shirt adverts for one weekend with slogans proclaiming: "My friend is a foreigner."

At the start of January the Portuguese soccer authorities were shocked by an outbreak of violence at the Benfica v Belenenses derby which was sparked by neo-Nazi bands among the Benfica following. The match was unruly enough, with four players sent off, without trouble off the pitch.

The following day a shame-faced and furious Benfica board of directors publicly disowned the neo-Nazis and promised further action to kick them out of the stadia. Whether they will is another matter.

Europe-wide football is replete with clubs who have excoriated the hooligans in public while conniving at their continued entry into the stadia.

Money talks. Not loudly enough this time, we hope.

Tell us more about Nehadoma

AS THE World Cup finals come into view over the American horizon, so interest in the peculiar, flawed history of the US game opens up. And not only the history of clubs and competition but of individual players.

One such was Janos Nehadoma. In the 1928-29 season he scored 40 goals in 46 games for the old Brooklyn Wanderers.

But, until now, the most extensive inquiries of Stateside statisticians have failed to trace his history.

I can now fill in some minor details.

Nehadoma was Hungarian, born in Budapest on August 20, 1901.

After playing in the United States from 1927 to 1930 he returned to Europe and ended his career in Italy after five years with Livorno (one season), Fiorentina (three seasons) and Modena (one season).

But for whom, and where, did he play before turning up in Brooklyn?

Does anyone out there know?

Tell me. US soccer has few enough original heroes.

Let's not lose all track of those who did exist.

HOW TO FIND WORLD SOCCER — WEEKLY

EVERY now and again readers ask if we plan to publish *WORLD SOCCER* as a weekly rather than a monthly. We're flattered by such comments. And, while there are no plans afoot to turn *WORLD SOCCER* into a weekly, there is one way in which you can keep up to date with the news through *WORLD SOCCER*. Each Monday the weekend's European league results and top sixes are featured on the *WORLD SOCCER* Results Page on the *Sky Sports* teletext service.

Just call up Page 440 and let *WORLD SOCCER* keep you up with the news.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

***WORLD SOCCER'S* new format appears to please readers, as these extracts from your letters illustrate:**

SIR — Congratulations on the new-look *WORLD SOCCER*. The presentation is superb and the contents even better. I have every copy since issue No 1, and can honestly say December's was the best yet. Way back in the days of its launch, many could not visualise the growing popularity of the sport world-wide. However, *WORLD SOCCER* has always been in the forefront of events, and long may it continue to do so. Well done.

— C. JONES, 22 Newfield Gardens, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 IJN.

SIR — I have been a reader for over 30 years and have watched the magazine evolve into a first-class publication fit to stand alongside the weekly *France Football*.

There have been rough periods in the past but it is now informative, is becoming authoritative, and is packed with the facts and figures which we real followers of the wider game crave. The new layout probably allows an easier digesting of some of these facts.

Please restore the attendance figures to your tabulated European results. This is a fascinating aspect of the international scene all too rarely mentioned in your pages until recent seasons.

— R.A. PHILLIPS, 2 Burnham Close, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3UB.

SIR — I have to congratulate you on the changes to *WORLD SOCCER*. I haven't been a regular reader over the last couple of years, but now I will buy it every month.

I am a big fan of German football, and like the new format, especially the mention of Jorg Berger.

I am a Koln fan and a supporter of Berger, despite seeing them lose three times this season, including the disaster at Celtic.

You have got back a regular reader.

— ANDY WEST, Rotherham, South Yorkshire.

★ One subject of concern was the absence of European league match attendances from the December issue. These are now once more featured, as usual, among our match-by-match details from all the continent's major championships.

Our aim is to provide the best and best-informed coverage of the international game. So keep those comments coming.

RACE FOR £15 MILLION BERGKAMP

JUVENTUS hold a slight lead over Milan in the race to sign Dennis Bergkamp, Holland's latest sensation, now that he has decided to quit Ajax, after all, at the season's end.

Bergkamp insists he has made no decision on his exact destination yet.

All he will say is that it will be Italy or Spain. But even that narrows the field dramatically because only a handful of clubs possess the financial clout to seal a deal, possibly as much as £15 million.

These are Juventus and Milan, then possibly Inter in Italy, and Barcelona and possibly Real Madrid in Spain.

But Inter's lack of success over the past year has not generated the financial turnover to turn them into leading contenders, while Real Madrid drove a hole in their own bank account last year in buying out the contracts of a string of players and coaches before reconstruction.

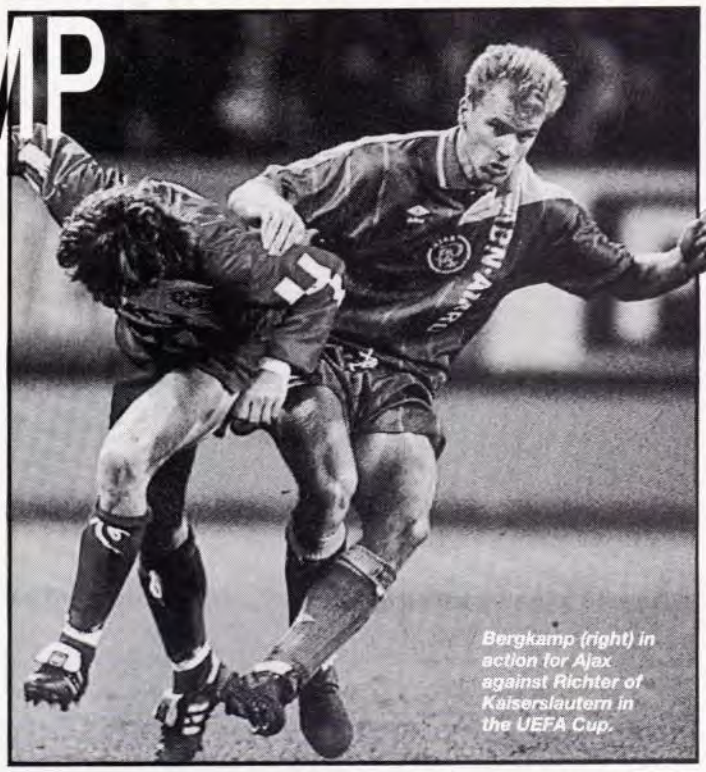
Bergkamp first became the serious subject of transfer speculation on the eve of the European Championship finals last year, after helping Ajax win the UEFA Cup for the first time.

Then, with a host of clubs clamouring around him, Bergkamp decided to stay one more year in Holland.

One factor was uncertainty over how the three-foreigner restrictions would operate in Italy.

Bergkamp, for example, is on the record as insisting he will not join any club in Italy not prepared to guarantee him a first-team place whenever fit.

Just before Christmas it was rumoured in Holland that Bergkamp might, after all, decide to stay yet another year with Ajax. It was to end this sort of speculation that he finally admitted: "I really am going to leave Ajax at the end of this season but I must say that I have not yet decided where I will play next season.



Bergkamp (right) in action for Ajax against Richter of Kaiserslautern in the UEFA Cup.

Offers from Spain and Italy are not so very far apart.

"Together with my family and my adviser (Rob Jansen of the Dutch players' union) I will sit down in due course and make a decision."

Bergkamp's future could well be linked to that of Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff — who first brought Bergkamp into the Ajax team as a raw teenager in the 1986-87 season. But Cruyff's future also is open to question. He may not want to stay much longer at Barcelona now that president Josep Lluis Nunez is standing for re-election, and Juventus have initiated inquiries which Cruyff is not thought to have discouraged.

Cruyff is seen as a key player in the Bergkamp saga. Ajax directors, with memories of complications over the Ronald Koeman sale in mind, doubt whether even Barcelona could easily raise the necessary fee for Bergkamp.

Thus the best prospect to link Cruyff and Bergkamp may well be at Juventus.

Milan have long coveted Bergkamp, of course. At the moment — with three foreigners too many as it is — they appear unable to provide him with any guarantees.

But Ruud Gullit is considered likely to leave at the end of the season and it would not be a major surprise if Jean-Pierre Papin were to be sold back to France — either to his old club, Marseille, or to ambitious Paris Saint-Germain.

Only thus could Milan create a place for Bergkamp — even if president Silvio Berlusconi were willing to concede Bergkamp's demand for a guaranteed slot in the starting line-up.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

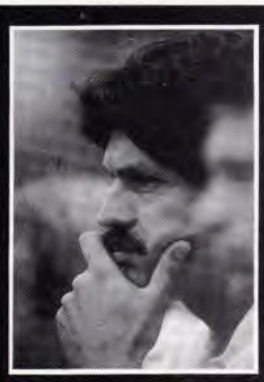
Diego back

DIEGO MARADONA is poised to make his comeback for Argentina in the friendly against Brazil on February 19.

He is in a squad of 20 named by Argentina manager Alfio Basile.

This is Maradona's first international since his suspension for failing a dope test in Italy in March, 1991.

Luka's a most unlucky loser



BELGIAN leaders Anderlecht have sacked coach Luka Peruzovic . . . despite holding a five-point lead, having lost only one League game, and having reached the quarter-finals of the Belgian Cup.

Club manager Michel Verschueren said Peruzovic (above), who is a Croat, had been on the brink of dismissal for several weeks, and added:

"He has had problems communicating with the players and the media."

Dutchman Johan Boskamp takes over as caretaker to the end of the season.

Anderlecht have been linked with Guus Hiddink, Dutch coach of Valencia, who steered PSV Eindhoven to victory in the Champions' Cup in 1988.

In another controversial development, the Belgian Federation ordered Anderlecht to replay October's 3-1 away win over Genk.

Apparently Peter Van Vossen had re-entered the pitch without the referee's permission before scoring Anderlecht's third goal.

Rai bound for Paris

RAI, Sao Paulo's two-goal World Club Cup-winning inspiration against Barcelona in December, has been sold to Paris Saint-Germain for a bargain £1.6 million.

The 27-year-old Rai (right), younger brother of Socrates, Brazil's one-time World Cup skipper, will continue to play for the South American champions until July.

He rejected the offer of a six-month loan spell in between with Benfica, and had been coveted by a number of Italian and Spanish clubs, including Real and Atletico Madrid.

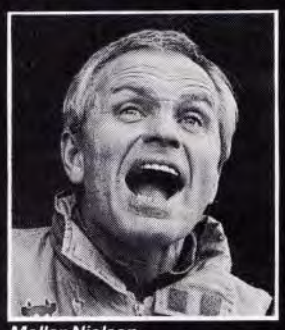
He said: "I'm thrilled at the chance to play in France. I love Paris. I've always wanted to live there, take in the culture and learn the language. I'm 27 so it's now or never."

Pele is first again

ABEDI PELE of Marseille and Ghana has been voted African Footballer of the Year again — the first player to win the award in successive years.

EURO CHAMPIONS IN DOUBLE ACTION

EUROPE'S champions at both club and national team levels put their pride on the line this month. Denmark play Argentina, champions of South America, for what was originally called the Franchi Trophy, while Barcelona play Werder Bremen in the first leg of the European club Supercup.


Moller Nielsen.

The first — and, so far, only — Franchi Trophy contest between the national team champions of Europe and South America was held in August 1985, when France beat Uruguay 2-0 in Paris, with goals from Rocheteau and Toure.

Argentina proposed reactivating the contest at the start of January. The Danish federation asked national boss Richard Moller Nielsen for his recommendation and it is thanks to him that the clash goes ahead in Buenos Aires on February 24.

Moller Nielsen hopes to have virtually his strongest team on duty. So do Argentina, because manager Alfio Basile will be pressing European clubs to release his men not only for the prestige clash with Denmark but for the friendly against Brazil a few days earlier.

Do not be surprised if Basile calls up uncapped, emergent Juan Antonio Pizzi of Tenerife — unless Spain boss Javier Clemente gets there first.

As for the European Super Cup, it provides Barcelona with an opportunity to make some amends for their Champions' Cup elimination by CSKA Moscow and then their World Club Cup defeat by Sao Paulo in Tokyo.

Barcelona will be overwhelming favourites to beat Werder Bremen, Germany's holders of the Cup-winners' Cup — who were eliminated at the second stage of their own cup defence last autumn by Sparta Prague.

No change in Scotland — for the time being

Gordon (left) of Rangers against Boyd of Celtic.

SCOTTISH soccer's latest reconstruction plan has crumbled after a secret ballot.

After eight months of in-fighting and haggling, the top sides face the prospect of another 44-game programme, playing each other four times.

The Scottish Football League's proposal for three divisions, 14-12-12, failed to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority, receiving 47 votes to 39 against. As expected, most of the rebel clubs involved in the proposed Scottish Super League stuck together to vote down the SFL charter.

Despite the stalemate, Scottish League secretary Peter Donald, and several of the League's opponents, are cautiously optimistic that an agreement can be achieved without clubs resorting to a breakaway.

Scottish League president Yule Craig admitted that all the uncertainty was damaging the game's general well-being.

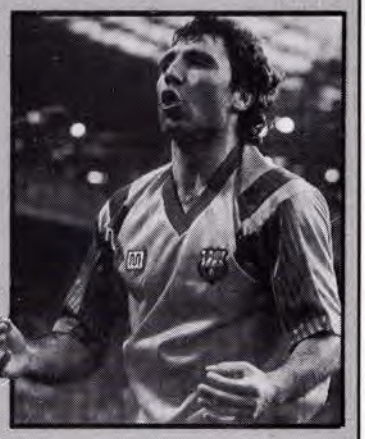
He said: "We've been trying very hard to find out what these clubs want. We offered four leagues of 10. We have tried 14-12-12. We can only get agreement if they tell us exactly what they want."

Four divisions of 10 may prove to be the best avenue for compromise, but only if the Premier clubs are given virtual autonomy.

Poll upset for Stoichkov

By GRAHAM TURNER

BARCELONA started 1993 reflecting on the disappointments of Champions' Cup elimination and the loss of the World Club Cup.



Johan Cruyff and his squad maintain that they now have added incentives to beat Werder Bremen in the European Super Cup.

The most bitter to swallow, however, was that the *France Football* jurors followed *WORLD SOCCER'S* example in voting Marco Van Basten European Footballer of the Year, ahead of Hristo Stoichkov, while Michael Laudrup and Ronald Koeman claimed seventh and eighth positions.

This was regarded as slim pickings for the side who won the Champions' Cup. A tearful Stoichkov (above), questioning the knowledge of the voters, described Peter Schmeichel and other occupants of the Top Ten as "nobodies" and even suggested that Milan were behind a plot to push one of their players to the top rung.

A few hours after Van Basten had been presented with the award in Paris, Stoichkov illustrated why many voters had given him the cold shoulder. He was sent off after five minutes of the away game against Rayo Vallecano, a match also notable for the way nine-man Barcelona came from 3-1 down to draw.

Stoichkov's subsequent ban gave Richard Witschge a rare place in the starting line-up and Cruyff, seeing visitors Celta as defence-minded, fielded him at left-back. He produced his best performance for Barcelona, set up the first goal, and scored the second.

Cruyff, who paid £2m for "the best Number 10 in Europe" in 1991, was pleased to see some semblance of form from a player who has consistently disappointed over the past 18 months.

Witschge's name is such a tongue-twister for Spaniards that his colleagues call him Richy Witchy or Ricky Wicky. His skills have been so firmly on "hold" that nobody has considered Tricky Dicky. He may have made a wrong decision in leaving Ajax. He joined Barcelona as the fourth foreigner where only three can be on the pitch at any time, and played only nine full games last season.

Cruyff criticised his failure to cope with the pressures of life at Nou Camp, and even tried to offload him last summer, pencilling Andy Brehme into the squad as his replacement. There were no takers.

***France Football* voting**

No.	Player	Club	Pts
1	MARCO VAN BASTEN	Milan	98
2	Hristo Stoichkov	Barcelona	80
3	Dennis Bergkamp	Ajax	53
4	Thomas Hassler	Roma	42
5	Peter Schmeichel	Man Utd	41
6	Brian Laudrup	Fiorentina	32
7	Michael Laudrup	Barcelona	22
8	Ronald Koeman	Barcelona	14
9	Stephane Chapuisat	Dortmund	10
10	Frank Rijkaard	Milan	8
11	Enzo Scifo	Torino	8
12	Flemming Povlsen	Dortmund	6
13	Henrik Larsen	Pisa	4
14	John Jensen	Arsenal	3
	Paolo Maldini	Milan	3
16	Henrik Andersen	Koln	2
	Tomas Brolin	Parma	2
	Jean-Pierre Papin	Milan	2
	David Platt	Juventus	2
20	Franco Baresi	Milan	1
	Rune Bratseth	Werder	1
	Andreas Herzog	Werder	1

Past winners

1956 Matthews	1957 Di Stefano	1958 Kopa
1959 Di Stefano	1960 Suarez	1961 Sivori
1962 Masopust	1963 Yashin	1964 Law
1965 Eusebio	1966 Charlton	1967 Albert
1968 Best	1969 Rivera	1970 Muller
1971 Cruyff	1972 Beckenbauer	1973 Cruyff
1974 Cruyff	1975 Blokhin	1976 Beckenbauer
1977 Simonsen	1978 Keegan	1979 Keegan
1980 Rummenigge	1981 Rummenigge	1982 Rossi
1983 Platini	1984 Platini	1985 Platini
1986 Belanov	1987 Gullit	1988 Van Basten
1989 Van Basten	1990 Matthaus	1991 Papin

On the slide

Crisis-torn Real lose their way

Worried . . . coach Benito Floro (above), as well as Real fans at Bernabeu stadium (left).

Fortunate . . . Prosinecki is coining the cash.

"REAL'S placing is almost entirely due to their historical record, large crowds and some good performances in this season's UEFA Cup."

The sentence was used by Lynton Guest to justify Real Madrid's fall to eighth place in his annual survey of Europe's top 40 clubs, based on thier finances, results and facilities, and recently published in *The Sunday Telegraph.*

The phrase neatly summarises the sense of sadness felt by outsiders as one of Europe's vintage clubs toil to find a route out of deep crisis.

The fans who recently waved white handkerchiefs in the Bernabeu stadium, as a protest against wretched performances, would even contest the value of UEFA Cup wins over Politecnica Timisoara, Torpedo Moscow and Vitesse Arnhem. Current form has provoked a good deal of knee-trembling about the quarter-final against Paris St. Germain.

What bugs the legions of Real fans is that the current crisis is not derived from a momentary patch of bad form but from broader disorders.

Barcelona followers remark with a glint in their eye that an important role reversal has taken place within Spanish football. Real are now exhibiting the symptoms of instability traditionally endemic to Barca.

President Ramon Mendoza, after rejoicing in five consecutive League titles, is now struggling to keep the ship on an even keel and talking of abandoning it altogether after setting course for conversion into a limited company.

For two years Mendoza has been banging around in the dark seeking to re-open a door which has suddenly slammed shut.

Since John Toshack's dismissal in 1991, he has handed the baton to Alfredo di Stefano, Jose Antonio Camacho, Raddy Antic, Leo Beenhakker and Benito Floro. If Floro is still conducting, it is largely because Real do not have the cash to pay him off and hire another top coach.

The till is so empty that Real could not compete for Rai, Sao Paulo's South American Footballer of the Year, who is going to Paris St-Germain.

Cash-flow problems are not unconnected with a huge wage bill. Six of the squad have basic earnings of over £600,000 a year, with Prosinecki more than doubling that figure. Hierro, emerging as the one dependable stock in this erratic Real outfit, has now broken off negotiations for a new contract because Mendoza refuses to put him on a par with the top earners.

Since 1990 neither domestic nor foreign signings have responded to expectations. Spasic and Hagi have come and gone. Rocha, annoyed by Mendoza's "broken promises", says he will leave at the end of the season. Neither Villarroya nor Lasa has buried the ghost of Gordillo on the left-hand touchline.

Zamorano falls short of Hugo Sanchez's scoring standards. Milla has failed to nail down a midfield place since being poached from Barcelona. No rock-solid replacement has allowed Chendo, 31, to be phased out of the right-back position.

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Youth products such as goalkeeper Lopetegui (now linked with Barcelona), defenders Solana and Asier and midfielders Aldana and Aragon have been allowed to leave.

With Floro complaining bitterly about "excessive pressures", Real seem to be playing with a mouthful of bile. They have simply stopped enjoying their football — none more so than Butragueno, Michel, Sanchis and the repatriated Martin Vazquez, whose talents have been eroded by a decade of front-line warfare.

National team manager Javier Clemente has fiddled around with five from Real, but for both games against Latvia (Martin Vazquez was still a Marseille player when they travelled to Riga) he wrote a chapter in the record books by starting with a line-up that did not include a single Real player.

Self-belief was shaken by the disastrous loss of last season's title to Barcelona in the last 20 minutes of the last game, in Tenerife, and Floro's insistence on a psychologist (he worked with one at Albacete) has proved a necessity rather than a luxury.

During a recent game Real were performing so poorly that the fans in the South Stand started chanting "Send on the psychologist".

Floro's much-vaunted revolution has yet to produce a recognisable system on the field. He remains optimistic, saying: "Nothing has gone right for us, but we are still there or thereabouts."

Unfortunately, at a club of Real's pedigree, "thereabouts" is not good enough. Especially when Barcelona are winning.

Unfortunate . . . Milla, seen above in action with Loren of Burgos, has failed to gain a regular place.

FULL OF PEP

Guardiola is going to the top

JOSEP GUARDIOLA failed to gain a single point in the voting for the European Footballer of the Year, but nobody can better his haul for 1992.

The Spanish title, the Champions' Cup, an Olympic gold medal won in his own stadium during the Barcelona Games, and the Bravo award for Europe's most promising youngster all went to Guardiola, the Barcelona midfielder.

He did not celebrate his 22nd birthday until January 18, but "Pep" already has attracted £6m offers from Italy, where he is so much of a celebrity that apocryphal biographies have appeared in the press. One reporter maintained he is engaged to a law student he refers to as "his little Perry Mason".

Pep, still single, claims his girl-friends have better figures than Raymond Burr.

He also is alleged to have grown up with a love for sailing acquired in his home town on the coast — something unlikely unless a 32-mile tide reached the village of Santpedo, just north of Manresa.

Guardiola is a Catalan through and through, and never dreamed of anything but a career at Barcelona.

Although many fans regard the club's offer of £120,000 a year for the extension of his contract beyond 1995 as peseta-pinching, he would turn a blind eye to potfuls of lire for the privilege of staying at Nou Camp.

One of his most cherished photographs was taken in April 1986 after Barca had come back from a 3-0 defeat in Sweden to eliminate IFK Gothenburg on penalties, and qualify for the ill-fated Champions' Cup Final against Steaua Bucharest.

There, on the touchline with the players, was a 15-year-old ballboy with a pudding-basin haircut, raising his arms in jubilation.

At that stage nearly two years had gone by since Pep had attracted the attention of Barcelona scouts, impressed in trials, and left Santpedo to move into the club's La Masia residence.

The young Guardiola was so much of a Pepsqueak that his mates joked he could not stay upright in a game of blow football. Fortunately, he took his diet and his weight-training seriously enough to make the grade, aided by a burst of late development which has taken him to six feet.

Until he was called into the Olympic squad, Guardiola had never represented Spain at any level. Javier Clemente rounded off a memorable 1992 by giving him his full debut as a substitute in the World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland last October.

His debut for Barcelona was a more painful process. Pep progressed through the lower divisions at the club trying to shake off the image of a super-skilled weakling. In January 1990 Johan Cruyff had him warming up during a match against Oviedo, but did not send him on.

He had to wait almost a year for an injury to Ronald Koeman and a ban on Guillermo Amor to give him a chance against Cadiz, operating in front of the defence, distributing the ball with skill and vision, making the side tick.

Even then, Cruyff was careful to avoid risks of a big head by sending Pep back to the reserves from time to time. Even now, with Guardiola established, Cruyff is cautious.

"If he went to Italy at his age, he would find the bar set much higher. The demands on foreign players are greater.

"Nobody can question his prospects or his quality, but he still needs a few more slaps round the face."

Espanol top Cup shocks

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	17	12	3	2	32	11	27
Barcelona	16	10	5	1	42	15	25
Real Madrid	17	11	2	4	33	14	24
Tenerife	17	7	6	4	28	18	20
Valencia	17	7	6	4	22	15	20
Atletico Madrid	17	8	4	5	27	21	20
Athletic Bilbao	17	8	3	6	26	23	19
Sevilla	17	7	5	5	22	21	19
Gijon	17	6	7	4	19	19	19
Rayo Vallecano	17	6	6	5	25	24	18
Zaragoza	17	5	8	4	18	21	18
Osasuna	17	6	4	7	22	20	16
Espanol	17	5	6	6	24	28	16
Oviedo	16	4	6	6	18	19	14
Celta	17	4	5	8	8	17	13
Real Sociedad	17	5	2	10	18	30	12
Albacete	17	4	3	10	25	31	11
Cadiz	17	2	6	9	13	32	10
Burgos	17	2	5	10	13	38	9
Logrones	17	2	4	11	12	30	8

WHILE the league moves onward and upward towards a riveting climax, the Copa del Rey has, amazingly, produced some major surprises.

To describe the King's Cup as dull is almost an insult to ditchwater, with the six top clubs exempt until the sixth round and the home-and-away formula designed to ensure a safe passage for the Big Boys.

This season, however, has produced some king-size surprises.

Athletic Bilbao were eliminated by Division 2B promotion hopefuls Jerez. Burgos lost on penalties to Second Division Valladolid. Cadiz were twice humiliated by Division 2B Extremadura, 5-1 away and 1-0 at home.

Title-chasing Deportivo La Coruna paid dearly for resting Bebeto, Mauro Silva and other key first-teamers and went out on penalties after losing 1-0 at home to humble Merida, thus missing a fifth-round confrontation with Diego Maradona's Sevilla.

But the biggest upset — and some fans were so upset they demanded emergency meetings and decapitations — was provided by Espanol. They had beaten Second Division tail-enders Villarreal 2-1 away, and the coup de grace in Barcelona was regarded as simply a matter of turning up and pulling the trigger.

Villarreal, having taken two points and scored one goal in eight League away-days, won 5-1 despite leaving the dreadlocked Cyrille Makanaky on the bench. They then trooped jubilantly back to Castellon and restored perspectives by losing 2-0 to Compostela in the league.

All of which generated great mirth on the other side of the Diagonal in Barcelona, especially when Espanol were then trounced 3-0 in La Coruna, thanks to a Bebeto hat-trick which took him level with Hristo Stoichkov at the top of the scoring charts with 15.

Stoichkov dismissed Bebeto's challenge with the statement: "Those three goals don't count — the opponents were only Espanol".

That earned him an official letter of protest from the Espanol board and terms of lasting endearment from the players.

Rarely have such radiant smiles been visible at a Nou Camp where Barcelona have been enjoying stability amid chaos and crisis at their rivals across the city and in Madrid. By the time *WORLD SOCCER* appears Josep Lluis Nunez may have secured a further five-year term as president in the club elections and Johan Cruyff may have put his signature to a two-year contract which may in turn, open the door for Dennis Bergkamp, despite fierce bidding from Italy.

Up in Madrid, Atletico surprisingly lost ground at a time when they seemed poised for a serious assault on the title, which has eluded them since 1977.

Missing . . . Atletico have struggled without Bernd Schuster.

Worrying . . . things are not going well for Luis Aragones.

They opened the New Year by losing 1-0 in San Sebastian against a Real Sociedad side who badly needed the points and took them with the least valid of three penalty claims, converted by Portuguese international Oceano. He is one of the major successes of the Spanish season.

Atletico had only one win from four games, and miss Bernd Schuster, absent since late October.

An ankle condition was attributed to a knock, then put down to arthritis, and finally pinpointed as an obscure infection. Schuster invoked his religious beliefs, refused antibiotics, and preferred to plunge ankle-deep in herbal remedies, despite dire threats of rescinded contracts from the Atletico president, Jesus Gil.

The ship listed still further when Paulo Futre had an attack of the niggles in his right knee and prompted manager Luis Aragones to invite Gil to make a choice between himself and a Portuguese star who was not pulling his weight in training.

The run of poor performances had threatened to put Aragones on the list of managerial dismissals started with Theo Vonk at Burgos and David Vidal at Logrones, and threatening to continue like a pack of cards. The air is thick with threats.

Vonk was temporarily replaced by his assistant, Jose Ramon Perez Rodriguez, alias Monchu. Vidal's job went to Carlos Aimar, an Argentine who was returned unopened when Logrones tried to sign him three years ago: he failed to obtain a work permit.

Another South American, Victor Esparrago, was wheeled in when Albacete decided to move Julian Rubio back upstairs to his post as general manager.

Esparrago's first move was to reinstate out-of-favour Rommel Fernandez, the Panamanian strker, who responded with a hat-trick in the 5-0 demolition of Cadiz.

Happy Families on the island

JOURNALISTS flew from Buenos Aires to cover the clash between Tenerife and Sevilla.

In the Tenerife corner: manager Valdano, his assistant Cappa, midfielder Redondo and strikers Pizzi and Dertycia. In the Sevilla corner: Bilardo, Maradona and Simeone. All from Argentina.

Maradona tried to light a pipe of peace by reiterating that he and Valdano had won the 1986 World Cup under Bilardo. At the same time he said he could never forgive Redondo (unwilling to miss an important exam) for refusing to join Bilardo's squad for a friendly.

The media men from B.A. rubbed their hands at the prospect of a head-on collision on neutral territory between Valdano, regarded as an apostle for Menotti's romantic creed, and Bilardo, renowned for a more pragmatic (cynical?) approach.

The net result — or the gross result — was a total of 13 yellow cards; a 3-0 Tenerife win, thanks to Pizzi (two penalties) and Dertycia; three sendings-off (Pizzi, Maradona and Sevilla's non-Argentinian midfielder Marcos); a brawl involving Bilardo and the occupants of the Sevilla bench; an official investigation ordered by the Civil Governor of Tenerife into Simeone's skirmish with police officers; and in case you're wondering why Redondo seems to be the odd one out, Maradona saw his second yellow card for trying to get his fellow countryman sent off.

Accusing . . . Jorge Valdano (above) and Carlos Bilardo.

Surviving . . . Redondo stayed on the pitch, Maradona did not.

Bilardo later compared Valdano with Raffles the Gentleman Crook by calling him "a thief with white gloves on", whereupon the considerably more elegant Valdano accused Bilardo of deliberately magnifying the incidents in order to cover the unpleasant realities of a resounding defeat.

The game of Happy Families served to add decibels to the expressions of malaise about the personality which Bilardo has stamped on the "new look" Sevilla and is disturbingly reminiscent of the old-look Argentina, whose seven games in the 1990 World Cup finals produced 37 bookings and six dismissals.

Valdano said: "It is a significant fact, that despite leading his country to two World Cup finals, Bilardo is regarded as Public Enemy Number One in Argentine football."

At that stage, Sevilla's 16 League matches had produced 91 bookings and 12 red cards.

RESULTS

Real Madrid's Prosinecki beats Celta's Engonga to the ball.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Alkiza 45)
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 9,000.

OSASUNA 1 (Kosecki 73)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 14,000.

REAL MADRID 1 (Zamorano 83)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 70,000.

TENERIFE 4 (Pier 58, Pizzi 64, 79 pen, Dertycia 86)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. **Att:** 18,000.

BURGOS 0
CADIZ 2 (Oliva pen 3, Barla 42).
Att: 8,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Juanele pen 21)
ESPANOL 1 (Komejev 35). **Att:** 15,800.

ALBACETE 1 (Zalazar 25)
REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Poyet 23, Seba 81, Garcia Sanjuan 86). **Att:** 12,000.

LA CORUNA 3 (Aldana 6, 47, Bebeto 17)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 25,000.

VALENCIA 2 (Penev 1, Casmarasa 33)
LOGRONES 1 (Iturrino 15).
Att: 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

WEEKEND

ZARAGOZA 0
LA CORUNA 2 (Claudio 6, Bebeto pen 23). **Att:** 23,000.

ESPANOL 2, (Urbano 32, Fonseca 89)
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 23,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (C. Garcia 73)
VALENCIA 4 (Alvaro 13, Roberto 77, Fernando 83, Eloy 84). **Att:** 42,300.

CADIZ 2 (Barla 50, Artiaga 78)
SPORTING GIJON 3 (Mansarin 9, Juanele 83, Jordanov 90). **Att:** 11,000.

OVIEDO 3 (Jankovic 7, Pirri 51, Vinals 75)
BURGOS 0. **Att:** 18,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 3 (Polster, 3, 20, pen 71)
BARCELONA 3 (Koeman pen 41, Bakero 80, Salinas 84). **Att:** 17,300.

CELTA 1 (Pizzi 50)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 12,000.

SEVILLA 2 (Suker 32, Marcos 90)
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 53,000.

OSASUNA 2 (Spasic 66, Kosecki 77)
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 26,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 0
LOGRONES 1 (Abadia pen 51).
Att: 24,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

WEEKEND

LOGRONES 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 43).
Att: 12,000.

VALENCIA 0
ZARAGOZA 1 (Higuera 76). **Att:** 46,100.

LA CORUNA 3 (Bebeto 1, 64, 81)
ESPANOL 0. **Att:** 23,000.

ALBACETE 5 (Rommel 1, 29, 66, Salazar 24, Pinilla 88)
CADIZ 0. **Att:** 16,000.

SPORTING GIJON 0
OVIEDO 1 (Lacatus 9). **Att:** 27,000.

BURGOS 0
RAYO VALLECANO 3 (Josete 14, Polster 21, Riesco 90). **Att:** 1,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Oceano 74 o.g.)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 14,000.

BARCELONA 2 (Nadal 36, Witschge 43)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 39,000.

REAL MADRID 3 (Hierro 55, 84, Butragueno 88)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 52,000.

TENERIFE 3 (Pizzi 12, 58 o.g.,Dertycia 72)
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 21,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEEKEND

ZARAGOZA 1 (Higuera 74)
LOGRONES 1 (Iturrino 60). **Att:** 16,000.

ESPANOL 1 (Escaiete 74)
VALENCIA 1 (Fernando 80). **Att:** 15,000.

CADIZ 0
LA CORUNA 3 (Bebeto 22, 65, Claudia 73). **Att:** 8,000.

OVIEDO 0
ALBACETE 0. **Att:** 15,300.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Polster 17, 53)
GIJON 2 (Manjarin 19, Juavele 65).
Att: 8,000.

CELTA 1 (Salillas 55)
BURGOS 1 (Lunperger 77). **Att:** 12,000.

SEVILLA 0
BARCELONA 0. **Att:** 50,000.

OSASUNA 1 (Kosecki 23)
TENERIFE 2 (Pizzi 10 o.g., Redondo 53). **Att:** 14,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Inaz 25)
REAL MADRID 5 (Butragueno 11, Hierro 26, Zamorano 46, 65, Enrique 84).
Att: 17,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Sabas 84)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 31).
Att: 22,000.

KID KAISER

Beckenbauer minor could go on to play a major role

ANDREW CONRADI meets a great player's son who is making his own way in the game

THE MOMENT Stefan Beckenbauer decided to become a professional footballer, he knew he was inviting instant comparisons with his father Franz, otherwise known as "Der Kaiser."

But Stefan, 23-year-old son of Germany's most successful player and national team coach, also knows full well what his limitations are — and doesn't mind admitting it.

"I wanted to play football 10 minutes after I was born, but it's not my goal to be as good as my father," said young Beckenbauer, enjoying his first full season in the Bundesliga with Saarbrucken.

"Anyway, that's impossible. He was unique. There will be nobody else like him."

Pressure is a word young Beckenbauer professes to know little about. Watching him train with the Saarbrucken squad, it is easy to see why. He blends into the background with little fuss, laughing and joking with his team-mates.

He responds quickly to coaching instructions. But for his features you would not know he was a Beckenbauer.

He likes it that way. "I'm proud to be my father's son but I've only played a handful of games and shouldn't be judged yet. In one or two years I'll tell you what it's like being a Beckenbauer. Right now, I really don't feel the pressure. I'm only just starting out in the big league."

Franz had advised his son to sign for Saarbrucken, an unfashionable but friendly and unassuming club in the heart of the Saarland region close to the French border. They are no Bayern Munich, where every move by big-name players — on and off the field — is scrutinised by the media.

Beckenbauer, a private person whose idea of a fun evening is to stay at home watching television with his wife of a few weeks, loves the anonymity of the place.

"This is the perfect club at which to learn," he said.

"Of course I am ambitious but at the moment all I want to do is play for Saarbrucken. What happens later is out of my hands."

Stefan began his career as a Bayern Munich junior and played for Munich 1860, Kickers Offenbach and Swiss club Grenchen before Saarbrucken took him, on Franz Beckenbauer's recommendation.

Coach Peter Neurerer, who led Saarbrucken to promotion last season and is the youngest manager in the Bundesliga at 37, said Franz realised his son's development was at a crossroads.

"Stefan was being surrounded by people who pretended they were his friends when really all they were interested in was exploiting his family's name," Neurerer said. "If he'd stayed at Bayern, with all their stars, he'd never have had a chance."

Although Stefan started as a libero, the position his father graced for so many years, he is used primarily as a stopper, which Neurerer believes is his best position.

"He lacks pace," said the coach. "But he is good in the air and can play with both feet. I always knew he had the talent. He just needed to go to a club where his name wouldn't get in the way."

One of Stefan's most vivid memories is watching his father's farewell match for Hamburg in 1982, against the West German national team.

"It was a very special moment for the whole family. I remember how many people were there and realised Dad would never play again."

Although all three Beckenbauer sons followed in their father's footsteps and took up football as children, one now works in a bank and another is a medical student.

Football was rarely mentioned at home. "My father taught me virtually nothing about the game," said Stefan. "He was always away in another city, and when he came home, football was the last thing he wanted to talk about."

Family fashion . . . can Stefan (top left and above, in action against Letchkov of Hamburg) ever be as good as father Franz (left)?

Stefan already has experienced the fear of all professionals: serious injury. At Grenchen he was out for six months with knee problems.

"I always knew I would play again but you stay at home in plaster and every day seems twice as long as the previous one," he said.

"Saarbrucken certainly took a risk on me."

Neurerer has nothing but respect for Stefan. "He's a normal guy. It was always going to be difficult for him to play football but he is certainly better than average in his position. Right now, he's happy just to be in the team.

"This is the right club for him to develop. Most of them were frightened away because of his name. They didn't want any trouble with Franz, who has great influence with the German FA. But I think Stefan could be an international within two or three years."

Quiet and unassuming he may be, but Beckenbauer does have some vices. He is not averse to a drink or two and likes the odd cigarette.

Neurerer does not stop him. "I'm not the minister for health. I cannot forbid anyone to smoke and drink if they wish. If I tried, they'd do it anyway.

"I'm only interested in what I see during training and matches."

Bayern find a new spirit

GERMANY'S national squad flew to South America for two matches, against Brazil and Uruguay, and all the Bundesliga's players had a relatively short break over the holiday period.

Then they reported to their clubs for training before fulfilling engagements at home and abroad and in the various indoor tournaments. The second half of the championship season is due to resume on February 19-20.

The so-called "autumn" champions, Bayern Munich, led the table from the start; they thus answered their critics who predicted that they will have a hard time, just like last year. They were 10th then, and eventually finished in that unusually lowly place.

"Had I forecast that we would dominate this first phase of the programme so clearly, the media would have called me a big head," says Bayern's vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

He knew that the club would not waste any time in the off-season, spending £8m on five players and

Praise . . . Erich Ribbeck.

Labourers lose their lustre

THE German national team's performances remain inconsistent. Of 14 matches in 1992, four were lost and five drawn — hardly world champion form.

Controversial . . . Stefan Effenberg.

The 3-1 defeat by Brazil shook the German soccer fraternity to the core. It was not just the setback — Brazil have a fine team — but the manner. Manager Vogts called it "a laboured display, unworthy of a national side".

The scapegoat for this mishap was quickly found: Stefan Effenberg, rated by *Gazzetta dello Sport* as the best player in Italy, put in one of his least convincing efforts in national colours.

The Brazilians were at times brilliant, but all three goals could have been prevented: goalkeeper Illgner has at least two on his conscience.

Others were not much better, playing without much urgency or strength. Without being able to dictate the pace or rhythm, the Germans looked anything but world champions.

Four days later Vogts changed the team in six positions, recalling keeper Kopke and Thon as sweeper, using effectively six men in midfield and Klinsmann as the solitary striker. The reshuffled formation beat Uruguay by 4-1, though the hosts missed their Italian-based stars, who refused to play under manager Luis Cubilla.

That win quietened down the heated debates in Germany and lifted some of the pressure from Vogts, who had said he would consider resigning, if the results did not improve.

He intends to stop experimenting and wants to start the World Cup preparations at least with the nucleus of the side who, he hopes, will successfully defend the World Cup in the US next year.

Whether his plans will include the controversial Effenberg is anybody's guess.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

SAARBRUCKEN 0
NURNBERG 1 (Brunner 90). **Att:** 19,000.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Kastenmaier 40, Wynhoff 77)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Kree 9, Kirsten 32). **Att:** 18,000.

WATTENSCHEID 2 (Sane 22, 39)
BOCHUM 0. **Att:** 18,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3 (Yeboah 9, Rahn 12, Okocha 37)
HAMBURG 3 (Rohde 24, Spies 66, Von Heesen 68). **Att:** 29,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Chapuisat 1, 69, Rummenigge 24)
KARLSRUHER 1 (Kiriakov 57). **Att:** 42,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Labbadia 63)
SCHALKE 1 (Freund 53). **Att:** 35,000.

KOLN 5 (Greiner 10, H. Fuchs 21, 80, U. Fuchs 39, Ordenewitz pen 86).
UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 14,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jahnig 22)
KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Witeczek 8, 41, Ritter pen 90). **Att:** 12,000.

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Rufer pen 9)
STUTTGART 1 (F. Walter pen 88). **Att:** 18,921.

Koln celebrate one of their five goals against Uerdingen.

Versatile . . . Thomas Helmer.

collecting the same amount from the sales of four. They included Stefan Effenberg and Brian Laudrup, both described as "a bad influence" on the squad.

Of the newcomers, the most significant were the versatile defender Thomas Helmer, Brazilian Jorginho and the national team's captain, Lothar Matthaus. Team manager Erich Ribbeck praises the new spirit within the ranks and the positive distribution of responsibility among the officials.

Dutch international Jan Wouters is now the commanding figure, ably assisted by Matthaus.

Little midfielder Olaf Thon has been converted into a libero and returned to the national side in this position.

Goalkeeper Raimond Aumann is the new captain and another "chief" on the pitch. This team certainly have spirit. Bayern pulled back seemingly irretrievable deficits in Frank-furt, Stuttgart and Bochum.

General manager Uli Hoeness corroborates the opinion that Ribbeck is responsible for inducing the calm atmosphere and discipline in the squad.

These two capable men deal with everyday problems, vice-presidents Franz Beckenbauer and Rummenigge decide club policy. The co-operation is exemplary.

"We are now all pulling in the same direction," claims Hoeness. And the fans are flocking to the Olympic stadium in increasing numbers.

The average gate of 45,556 is the highest in the Bundesliga. Schalke have 41,588 and Borussia Dortmund 40,557.

These gates are way above break-even, and attendances generally have risen above expectations, despite disappointing performances in European competitions. Only Borussia Dortmund reached a quarter-final.

The total of 3,879,114 was below last year's figure of 4,517,116, but there were then 20 clubs in the First Division. Now there are 18.

The average has increased from 23,774 to 25,354 per match, despite the fact that the television channels are showing more football than ever.

The goal ratio dropped slightly, from 2.68 to 2.62 per game.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	17	9	7	1	36	21	25
Ein. Frankfurt	17	8	8	1	32	19	24
Werder Bremen	17	8	7	2	27	17	23
Bor. Dortmund	17	9	3	5	34	25	21
Karlsruhe	17	9	3	5	37	31	21
Leverkusen	17	6	8	3	35	21	20
Stuttgart	17	6	7	4	25	24	19
Kaiserslautern	17	8	2	7	29	20	18
Nurnberg	17	7	3	7	16	19	17
Dyn. Dresden	17	5	6	6	21	25	16
Schalke	17	5	6	6	18	23	16
Hamburg	17	3	9	5	22	23	15
Saarbrucken	17	4	6	7	23	30	14
Koln	17	6	1	10	23	27	13
Borussia Mg.	17	3	7	7	22	33	13
Wattenscheid	17	4	4	9	25	35	12
Uerdingen	17	3	5	9	16	36	11
Bochum	17	1	6	10	18	30	8

A BORN FIGHTER

Toto's still sure he can go back to the heights

THE Golden Ball and a multitude of accolades should have guaranteed a silver-lined future for Salvatore Schillaci.

But Toto's fable took an inadvertent twist a few months after his heroic exploits at Italia '90, and his career has nose-dived.

Sicilian striker Schillaci no longer wears the black and white of his beloved Juventus and has not represented Italy for more than a year.

Only a glut of goals with Internazionale will give him a further opportunity on the international stage.

"I miss playing for the national team very much," he says.

"I'll always treasure the six goals which made me the World Cup's leading scorer. But at 28 I don't believe I'm finished. I still run like a madman!"

Salvatore Schillaci was born in Palermo, on December 1, 1964, and was brought up in the city's poor Cep district. As a youngster, he turned out for a local amateur side, Amat Palermo, and fitted tyres at a garage.

His scoring ability earned him a trip south to Messina, then in the Fourth Division (Serie C2) in 1982, at 18. He failed to set the place alight in his first seasons, scoring only 11 goals in more than 80 League appearances.

Schillaci seemingly needed a more flattering stage on which to exhibit his skill, and Messina's gradual climb to Serie B eventually granted him that chance. His 23 goals in the 88-89 season caught the attention of the Juventus president, Giampiero Boniperti.

Juventus were looking to rebuild following Ian Rush's unsuccessful stint and veteran Alessandro Altobelli's departure to rejoin his first love, Brescia. Schillaci arrived with a 20-year-old striker from Monza, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Their productive partnership immediately dispelled the doubters and Schillaci ended the season as Juve's top scorer, averaging a goal every two games.

Boniperti's primary intention was to use Schillaci as bait for the Torino striker, Luis Muller. But their city rivals were not prepared to part with him, which ultimately worked in Juve's favour.

He was selected for Italy's Under-21 side as an over-age player. His part in a 1-1 draw with an England XI in Brighton in November 1989 was cut short by a ruthless challenge, but he did enough to suggest that full international honours would not be far away.

Schillaci's goals led his club to a cup double in domestic and European competition and the reward could not have been more dramatic. Azeglio Vicini included Schillaci in his World Cup squad after his impressive debut against Switzerland in Basle only three months before the tournament began.

Italy had problems in the front positions and Vicini was less than happy with the Vialli-Carnevale combination, although he persisted with them right up to Italy's opening game, against Austria in Rome.

As a host of chances were squandered, the unfamiliar figure of Schillaci appeared as substitute.

Italy erupted when with virtually his first touch, the Azzurri finally scored.

Schillaci's goal brought a 1-0 victory, but failed to guarantee him a place in the starting line-up against the United States five days later. He had to be content with another substitute's appearance in a lacklustre team display which almost awarded the enthusiastic Americans a point.

Vicini then played his trump card, and announced that Schillaci would partner Roberto Baggio in attack.

The pair were labelled the Brothers of Italy — as in the national anthem's opening line — and lived up to all expectation. They produced the two goals to sink an imposing Czech team. Schillaci's place was now assured (at Vialli's expense) and wins against Uruguay and the spirited Republic of Ireland were again products of the striker's rich vein of form.

Schillaci could now dream of an appearance in the World Cup Final, but despite his fifth goal of the championship, Italy somehow spurned the opportunity to progress and were eliminated by Argentina.

But Toto's World Cup was not over as he trudged off the pitch with a bewildered look at the Neapolitan public. A disputed penalty against England in the third-place play-off secured his place in the record books.

Schillaci's life certainly had changed by the time the Italian League season reconvened. Unfortunately, the same bug which had plagued Paolo Rossi after the 1982 World Cup had struck again as the goals dried up. Five in 29 League games for Juventus brought the critics out in droves.

Juve suffered their worst season for almost three

Schillaci . . . for Italy.

Schillaci . . . for Internazionale.

PRO-FILE

SALVATORE SCHILLACI

INTERNAZIONALE AND ITALY

Born: December 1, 1964, in Palermo.

Previous clubs: Messina, Juventus.

International debut: March 31, 1990 v Switzerland (away), won 1-0.

HONOURS

UEFA Cup: 1990.

Italian Cup: 1990.

Victor Vittorio

Radice out, Agroppi back

Full marks for effort to Vittorio Cecchi Gori, vice-president of Fiorentina.

In case anyone was getting bored with the ongoing Milan dominance of the Italian championship, Cecchi Gori thought to enliven the New Year with the truly theatrical sacking of his team coach, the experienced Gigi Radice.

The controversial television commentator and coach Aldo Agroppi was the surprising replacement.

The ostensible reason for the sacking was a 1-0 home loss to Atalanta. At first glance, this did not seem so catastrophic. Fiorentina, even after the defeat, were still joint fourth in the table, two points behind Internazionale and one behind Lazio, Torino and Atalanta.

Only Milan, inevitably, inhabited another planet, fully ten points clear of them.

As events were to show, however, the family had decided that the time had come to get rid of Radice. Immediately after the game, Vittorio — son of the cinema tycoon and owner of Fiorentina, Mario Cecchi Gori — burst into the dressing room and launched a fierce attack on Radice.

He accused the coach of having regularly thrown points away by his stubborn insistence on a zonal, English-style defensive system.

Radice, aided by his number two Romano Cazzaniga, inevitably defended himself — forcefully. One and a half hours later, and after a stand-up and shout row that nearly descended into fisticuffs, Radice's time was up. Later that night, Fiorentina confirmed his dismissal.

So far, so bad, but worse was to come. Vittorio Cecchi Gori, perhaps aware that the dismissal of Radice had not met with universal approval either within the team ranks or within the soccer community, opted to go on to state TV's highly popular Monday night transmission *Il Processo Del Lunedi*, to defend his cause.

If soccer professionals and neutral fans had their doubts about Vittorio before the programme, those doubts were much increased after it. During a remarkable interview, in which he became increasingly upset, he said: "You (journalists) speak of Radice as some sort of pauper, battered down by his overlord. But let me tell you, that Mr. Radice earns one million dollars per season.

"This summer I conducted our transfer activity myself and I ignored nearly all the suggestions made to me by Radice, suggestions which later turned out to be mistakes.

"The only player that I bought with Radice was Fabrizio Di Mauro (from Roma). All the rest I bought myself, Radice didn't even know them. When I talked to him about Effenberg, he didn't know who he was. When I mentioned Carnasciali (a defender bought from

CONTINUED OVER

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	15	12	3	0	36	14	27
Internazionale	15	8	3	4	28	21	19
Lazio	15	6	6	3	32	22	18
Atalanta	15	8	2	5	20	21	18
Juventus	15	5	6	4	27	20	16
Torino	15	4	8	3	17	12	16
Sampdoria	15	5	6	4	28	26	16
Parma	15	7	2	6	18	18	16
Fiorentina	15	5	5	5	29	27	15
Cagliari	15	6	3	6	14	15	15
Udinese	15	6	2	7	23	21	14
Brescia	15	4	6	5	16	21	14
Genoa	15	3	7	5	23	32	13
Foggia	15	5	3	7	19	28	13
Roma	15	4	4	7	17	18	12
Napoli	15	5	2	8	22	26	12
Pescara	15	3	2	10	23	35	8
Ancona	15	3	2	10	25	40	8

Bought from Roma . . . Fabrizio Di Mauro.

decades and replaced coach Gigi Maifredi with former boss Giovanni Trapattoni.

The drought continued into the next year. How Toto wished he could turn back time as the goals he once seemed to score to order continued to elude him. By the end of 1991-92 his destiny lay elsewhere and the £12 million signing of Gianluca Vialli confirmed his departure.

With only 11 goals in two seasons, and no place in the national side, Schillaci's career was heading for disaster. "I played well in my last year with Juventus under Trapattoni," he says. "But the goals were still missing."

Napoli showed early interest, but little more. Bids from other leading clubs were non-existent. Parma and Cagliari were prepared to take him, as were French champions Marseille, but Schillaci turned them down. He wanted to remain among Italy's elite — and then Inter emerged with a £4 million bid.

"I've been a Juventus fan since I was a boy, and I still am," he says. "It's a dream to play for the team you were mad about from the time you were little. If there was room for sentiment in football, I would never have left Juventus. But there are three teams of the highest quality in Italy, and Inter are one."

Inter had off-loaded Jurgen Klinsmann to Monaco and Massimo Ciocci to Spal. Schillaci joined Ruben Sosa, from Lazio and Darko Pancev of Red Star Belgrade in a new-look forward line.

Signs so far suggest that Toto may have left his personal nightmare behind — despite separating from his wife Rita.

"I would like to finish my career with Inter," he says. "Then I'll return to Palermo. I have a coaching school there and we try to get the kids off the streets. Even now, I find it difficult to believe what I've achieved."

PADDY **AGNEW**

Schillaci . . . for Juventus.

Franco bungles

ARRIGO SACCHI'S Italy gave yet another unimpressive performance in defeating Malta 2-1 in a World Cup qualifier in Valletta.

With the game still scoreless, early in the second half, Malta missed a penalty following an elementary mistake by captain Franco Baresi, a mistake which cost him a sending off.

Gianluca Vialli of Juventus and Guiseppe Signori of Lazio eventually put the result out of doubt with 60th and 63rd minute goals. Just to remind Italy of the fright they had suffered, Gregory scored for Malta with four minutes left.

After the game, Sacchi apologised for the poor peformance, while Football Federation president Antonio Mataresse admitted that he had been ashamed. Worse still, as Italy prepare for their next World Cup encounter, in Portugal this month, they know that Baresi will be missing.

Baresi, recalled from premature international retirement for the November 0-0 World Cup draw with Scotland, followed up the Malta fiasco with another sending off, against AS Roma. His enforced absence in Portugal does at least mean that the search for his successor will be renewed with some vigour. Not before time, either, one suspects.

CONTINUED

Brescia), he asked me if he came from the amateur league. When I mentioned Laudrup, he asked me if he was an ice hockey player."

Later when some of the studio guests took a critical tone in relation to the sacking of Radice, Cecchi Gori walked out in a fury.

Little wonder that daddy Mario, while approving the dismissal, conceded that his son had carried it out "with little style".

Little wonder, too, that commentators asked what precisely is the coach's role, if he is not to have a decisive say in either team purchases or team tactics.

At the footballing heart of the disagreement is the consideration that Fiorentina have been a brilliant side this season going forward, and a disaster in defence. The Cecchi Gori family, evidently, wanted an old-style Italian defence with a sweeper playing behind man-to-man markers.

Which is what they promptly got from Agroppi, whose Italian-style defence got off to an immediate winning start in a relatively meaningless midweek triangular tournament with Internazionale and Leeds.

But his Serie A opening was inauspicious. Mario

TV expert takes over as coach

Branca put the first Udinese goal in the Fiorentina net after only nine seconds — a record for Italian soccer — and went on to score a hat-trick in a 4-0 win.

Agroppi's return to the coach's bench and to Fiorentina where he coached in the 1985-86 season has brought smiles to a great many faces. He has been a fiercely outspoken TV commentator, exposing (and usually for sound reasons) the individual and collective failings of Italian teams.

Several players and coaches may well find themselves especially motivated when they come to face Agroppi's Fiorentina.

Nor was his previous experience with Fiorentina totally happy. Despite having qualified the team for the UEFA Cup, finishing fourth, He was sacked after only one season during which his antipathy towards the local idol, Giancarlo Antognoni, (then at the end of his impressive career) lost him the support of the fans.

Ironically, on his return to Fiorentina, Agroppi found Antognoni on the coaching staff.

RAY **DELLA PIETRA**

MILAN'S Alessandro Costacurta was as relieved as anyone when Franco Baresi reversed his decision to quit international football. That change of heart could help to save Costacurta's future in the national team.

Costacurta's debt to Baresi

After making his debut for Italy as a right-back against Norway in November 1991, Costacurta was centre-back in seven out of the Azzurri's next eight matches.

Yet without Baresi at his side for last autumn's games versus Holland and Switzerland, he appeared ill at ease, and committed a number of uncharacteristic errors.

Italian soccer writers had every reason to be concerned by Costacurta's failings. After all, he was at fault for both Dutch goals in Italy's 3-2 friendly victory in Eindhoven, and suffered 90 torrid minutes attempting to subdue Milan team-mate Marco Van Basten.

He fared no better when Switzerland forced a deserved 2-2 World Cup draw in Cagliari. First, he clumsily lost possession on the right flank of the defence and Alain Sutter raced clear before crossing for Christophe Ohrel to score.

Four minutes later, Costacurta's underhit back-pass led to a goal by Stephane Chapuisat.

Italy fought back to obtain a late equaliser, but the loss of a home point signalled the beginning of a search for scapegoats.

Costacurta and central defensive partner Marco Lanna of Sampdoria suffered a barrage of criticism with demands for changes.

Lanna was then left out of the team against Scotland, Costacurta was dropped to substitute.

Then Alberto Di Chiara's early injury at Ibrox forced coach Arrigo Sacchi to send on Costacurta, this time with no ill effects.

"It would be foolish of me to pretend that I was in good form against Holland and Switzerland," Costacurta admits.

"But I have not played many games for Italy, and I'm still learning about international football.

"Those poor displays were all the more disappointing because I thought I had made a reasonable start to my national team career. I was very pleased with my performances versus Germany in Turin last

Milan colleague is vital to his progress

March and in our US Cup '92 matches against Portugal and the Republic of Ireland.

"I even managed my first international goal when I scored a penalty in a 2-0 win over the Irish.

"Of course I'm aware that my place in the team is at risk. But all I can do is maintain my consistency for Milan and hope Sacchi will continue to select me."

As for Baresi, Costacurta says: "I'm so pleased that he will be there to guide Italy to the 1994 World Cup

finals. I have played with him at Milan for the past five years and he has taught me so much.

"Franco is a legend, and still has a lot to offer both club and country."

Alessandro Costacurta was born on April 24, 1966, in the Lombardy town of Gallarate.

Despite growing up a few kilometres from Milan's training complex at Milanello, basketball was his first love.

Then soccer slowly gained ascendancy in his list of sporting priorities. He signed for a local side, Asso di Oggiona, and after a recommendation by his club coach, Roberto Vincenzi, Costacurta was recruited by regional giants Milan. He was then all of 12 years old.

With quiet determination, he progressed through the competitive maze of the Milanese youth ranks and during the 1985-86 season he was chosen for Italian Cup duty, as well as for several overseas friendlies.

In September 1986 Costacurta was loaned to Third Division Monza — where he starred alongside current Juventus striker Pierluigi Casairaghi — and some outstanding displays won him the first of eight Under-21 caps.

Shortly after returning to Milan he made his Serie A debut, at Verona in October 1987, and he went on to complete six more matches as Milan clinched the championship that season.

Additional senior team opportunities went his way in the following season. He clocked up 26 League appearances and proved his versatility by playing with distinction in a number of roles — stopper, sweeper, full-back and even in midfield.

To seal a year of great promise, Costacurta collected a 1989 Champions' Cup medal when he took part in Milan's 4-0 humiliation of Steaua Bucharest in the final.

By then his days as a utility player were drawing to a close. A succession of injuries to stopper Filippo Galli allowed Costacurta to carve a permanent niche in the centre of defence and over the next three years he helped Milan to two World Club Cups, two European Super Cups, the 1990 Champions' Cup and last season's domestic championship.

Costacurta does not have the sheer physical presence of former Italian centre-backs such as Roberto Rosato, Mauro Bellugi and Fulvio Collovati, but he compensates with excellent positional sense, tenacity and astute distribution.

NICK **BIDWELL**

Costacurta . . . for Milan (left).

Costacurta . . . for Italy (right).

Lanna . . . for Sampdoria (above).

PRO-FILE

ALESSANDRO COSTACURTA

MILAN AND ITALY

Born: April 24, 1966 in Gallarate, Lombardy.

Previous clubs: Asso di Oggiona, Monza (loan).

Milan debut: October 1987, v Verona.

International debut: November 1991 v Norway.

International caps: 11.

HONOURS

Champions' Cup: 1989, 1990.

World Club Cup: 1989, 1990.

European Super Cup: 1989, 1990.

Italian League: 1992.

RESULTS

Rizzitelli of Roma.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 1 (Rodriguez 79)
BRESCIA 1 (Sabau 66). **Att:** 25,000.

FOGGIA 2 (Bresciani 50, Mamndelli 55)
JUVENTUS 1 (Ravanelli pen 79). **Att:** 22,000.

GENOA 2 (Skuhravy 30, 79)
NAPOLI 1 (Fonseca 47). **Att:** 30,000.

LAZIO 3 (Fuser 61, Winter 73, Signori 84)
INTER 1 (Fontolan 76). **Att:** 60,000.

MILAN 2 (Papin 14, 51)
ANCONA 0. **Att:** 73,000.

PARMA 1 (Grun 58)
FIORENTINA 1 (Baiano 54). **Att:** 24,000.

PESCARA 2 (Massara 9, Allegri pen 43)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Jugovic 2, Mancini pen 40). **Att:** 14,000.

TORINO 0
AS ROMA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

UDINESE 2 (Balbo 62, pen 72)
CAGLIARI 1 (Pusceddu 88). **Att:** 16,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

WEEKEND

ANCONA 0
LAZIO 3 (Fuser 30, Signori 86, Winter 89). **Att:** 14,000

BRESCIA 2 (Hagi 46, Raducioiu 65)
UDINESE 1 (Balbo 38). **Att:** 11,000

SAMPDORIA 3 (Mancini 22, 27, 46)
FOGGIA 3 (Di Biagio 3 pen, Bresciani 7, Bianchini 79). **Att:** 28,000.

FIORENTINA 0
ATALANTA 1 (Perrone 53). **Att:** 31,000.

INTER 4 (Battistini 5, Sosa 49, Ferri 64, Shalimov 86)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 35,000.

JUVENTUS 2 (R. Baggio 52, Vialli 86)
PARMA 2 (Kohler 41 o.g., Melli 73). **Att:** 30,000.

NAPOLI 2 (Fonseca 16, 68)
PESCARA 0. **Att:** 45,000.

AS ROMA 0
MILAN 1 (Gullit 27). **Att:** 71,000.

CAGLIARI 0
TORINO 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 3 (Mihajlovic 29 o.g., Porrini 69, Bordin 89)
AS ROMA 1 (Giannini 55 pen). **Att:** 32,500.

FOGGIA 1 (Di Biagio 82)
INTER 3 (Shalimov 21, 72, Sosa 70). **Att:** 30,000.

LAZIO 2 (Signori 32, 82)
BRESCIA 0. **Att:** 40,000.

PESCARA 4 (Dunga 4, Allegri 10 pen, Borgonovo 34, Palladini 84)
ANCONA 3 (Detari 42 pen, Agostini 45, Lupo 48). **Att:** 16,000.

SAMPDORIA 1 (Lombardo 6)
JUVENTUS 1 (Moller 35). **Att:** 40,000.

UDINESE 4 (Branca 1, 49, 60, Balbo 89)
FIORENTINA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

MILAN 1 (Papin 54 pen)
CAGLIARI 0. **Att:** 75,000.

PARMA 1 (Minotti 72)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 22,500.

NAPOLI 1 (Policano 13)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 25,000.

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters...

Euro League

SIR — A new football format for Europe and at home seems inevitable. I suggest a European League of 12 North and 12 South sides playing in a midweek autumn and spring league of 22 matches each, with semi-finals and final in May.

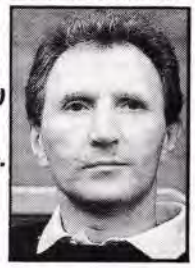
A Premier League of 18 English clubs should be fed by 22 First Division and 24 Second Division sides on the ladder and 18 North and 18 South semi-pro sides, making 100 teams in all.

A British Cup for the leading 18 Premier sides and 14 Scottish sides on a home and away basis midweek, and a League Cup sponsored for the remainder would fill autumn midweek fixtures before Xmas.

The FA Cup could continue as at present, with promotion issues settled by play-offs as natural stepping stones leading into Europe.

— REG MOORE, 13 Arthurs Hill, Shanklin, I.O.W. PO 37 6EU.

● CERTAINLY 18 Premier League English clubs is the main priority, as hopefully it would allow managers such as Howard Wilkinson (right) more time to improve the skills of players.



There is always the danger of reducing the number of clubs, as many are struggling financially.

The escalating costs of watching football is another concern.

The British Cup is a regular option that surfaces from time to time, but with greatest respect to Scottish sides I don't believe your split is anywhere near acceptable as a handful of clubs do tend to dominate their football.

The English League Cup currently gives a lucrative European place to the winner, so I doubt whether Premier League sides would want to sacrifice that opportunity either.

The size of your European League would also appear to be too large, and one of the key arguments there would concern the viability of allowing the inclusion of sides from the weaker countries.

Those such as Italy could understandably demand several places.

Meanwhile, in England, there is a need to cancel some of the smaller, unnecessary cup competitions like the Anglo-Italia Trophy which is proving to be more aggravation than it's worth.

Horrendous kits

SIR — Seeing some of today's kits, I wonder if Trevor Brooking would have the nerve (I certainly wouldn't) to play in such horrendous clothing? Some kits, like Aston Villa and Wimbledon are neat efforts — but who designed Shrewsbury's kit? All the fans seem to be forking out a small fortune for shirts that look better on Noel Edmonds, than the average footballer.

— GARY CROWE, 53 Oxford Street, Watford, Herts, WD18ES.

● I totally agree with your scathing remarks on the unfair exploitation of supporters with regard to today's kits. The cost of a complete set for any youngster is enormous and bad enough in itself, but when the style is changed again 12 months later that is testing loyalty to the limit.

It is not always the sports companies who are to blame, because if clubs can resist the temptation to be greedy, they can easily insist on a two or three year minimum deal.

My bulky frame would certainly not look too streamlined these days as designs are often geared for the leisure market, rather than for playing football.

Stop and start

SIR — For some 47 years I've been an avid football enthusiast. Now, thanks to the wonders of television, I am able to watch football from Italy, where I believe it's played the way it should be, with just one exception — that of the four-step rule for goalkeepers.

There have been many occasions when I've counted more than ten steps, following a couple of "stop and start" routines.

I feel very strongly about this blatant bending of the rules. How do you feel about this?

— G POPE, 39 Shelley Gardens, Cambridge, CB3 OBT.

● CERTAINLY there seems greater flexibility for goalkeepers in Italy and other European countries. As long as the game is kept flowing though, I am not too perturbed, but the "stop and start" routine is not so acceptable.

Punish the guilty

SIR — When clubs are found to have played an ineligible player in a European match, the whole tie should be declared void. If the defaulting club are found guilty of *knowingly* playing that player they should be expelled.

If, however, they are guilty of the lesser (but still serious) offence of administrative error, then it seems reasonable that the tie should be settled by a one-off match at the non-defaulting club's ground.

— P.J. SUCKLING, 68 Larchwood, Ballygowan Rd, Banbridge, Co. Down, N. Ireland.

● ALL your suggestions seem very reasonable, but after the disputes this season I cannot see how any club should now be in any doubt of the rules for the future.

England No.1

SIR — I find Bob MacLean's comments on goalkeeping (December) hard to take seriously from someone who has obviously never played there.

For strength in depth, England still has the best goalkeepers.

David Seaman has only had one bad match for England, John Lukic made his first calamitous mistake in five years against Rangers, and the fact that goalkeepers of their quality, as well as Tony Coton, Tim Flowers, Nigel Martyn etc etc cannot get in the national squad, proves this.

Foreign goalkeepers are spectacular.

They are also clowns, who come flapping at crosses (Walter Zenga, *the best in the world*, Italy v Argentina, 1990) and display an aversion to catching a ball (Pagliuca and Zubizaretta, Champions' Cup Final 1992). English clubs buy foreign goalkeepers because, if you buy quality, they are cheaper. Man Utd saved £500,000 on Schmeichel, and QPR and West Ham made similarly large savings. Still, Grobbelaar is leaving, Thorstvedt is in two minds about staying, Forrest and Kharin are not playing for Ipswich and Chelsea as I write. The foreign goalkeeper is on the way out.

— STEVE COLLINGS, 5 Ringwood Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 8BG.

● I agree with you that as far as strength in depth our current goalkeepers are not falling behind those from Europe, but I would back my own trio of Peter Shilton, Ray Clemence and Phil Parkes against any of those you mention now.

During the 1970s and '80s we reigned supreme, but sadly they were competing with each other and so poor old Phil only managed one cap after which he got fed up with travelling as the third goalkeeper.

Yet, I do believe their ability and consistency would have made them undisputed Number One in the modern era.

In defence of those playing currently the design and weight of footballs in recent years has encouraged far greater speed and movement through the air which has added to their difficulties.

TOYOTA EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN CUP

World apart

SIR — It is about time that the World Club Cup underwent a revamp to include sides from outside Europe and South America.

The event cannot justify its lofty claim of being the World's top club competition when sides from Africa, Asia and North and Central America are excluded from the proceedings.

Include the champions of Asia, Africa and the CONCACAF region in a mini-tournament, played in Tokyo over, for example, a week, with the top two sides meeting in the final.

No doubt the finalists would usually be from Europe and South America, but the other continental champions deserve their chance to show what they can do. What do you think?

— DAVID JACKSON, Bolton, Lancashire, England.

● IT'S an interesting proposition, but again throws up the problem of additional fixtures, extra sponsorship to cover increased costs, and whether the sides involved would attract the wider television audience needed for it to be a success.

The best tournaments sell themselves because of the stars included.

But the chances are that many of those on show might not be so well known outside their own country and I think it would dampen the appeal of the competition.

●You can write to Trevor Brooking, c/o *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.
●Comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessary reflect *WORLD SOCCER'S* views. He will answer only those letters published.

Negative play

SIR — For the first time I've been able to follow the Italian Serie A on television this past autumn. It's been truly refreshing compared with the traditional English Saturday game shown on TV here.

How boring the English game has become! I was expecting the back-pass rule to give the game the flow I see in Italian and international football. Instead I saw defenders under pressure constantly kicking the ball into the crowd, while the Italian defender tries to play the ball up field. Constructive in Italy, destructive in England. Why? Skill and football knowledge exist in the English game, but the attitude is wrong.

I've followed the discussion about the back-pass rule in this magazine for a year or more. And it's all been negative, from readers to writers, especially Mr Glanville. He is still going on about the negative side while the rest of Europe give credit to the new rule for influencing a faster and more attractive game.

Negative thinking and attitudes have helped in creating a negative English game.

Anyone who has played competitive football knows that tradition is nothing but attitude, and the confidence that goes with it is everything in this game.

— ERIK OLSSON, Varberg, Sweden.

● I HAVE a great deal of sympathy for your comments. They must echo the thoughts of many who have watched the televised matches from Italy this season.

In England there always has been a reluctance to cultivate the cultured defender who can pass his way out of trouble. It has meant we have produced such players who can stand the comparison with those in Europe.

It is argued the new back-pass rule discourages this even further as it increases pressure on defenders, but like you I believe any player confident in his ability should still be capable of sharing the necessary composure.

One plus for me with the new rule this season is that it has cut down on some of the boring offsides that were becoming so destructive in the English game.

Goalkeepers can no longer receive a back-pass and then stand for ages while his defence pushes up to the half-way line before releasing his kick upfield!

Wrong man

SIR — I read with disbelief the choice of European Footballer of the Year — Marco Van Basten (right). After his dismal showing at Euro '92 he should not even be in the top 10.

Recent events and exposure to Italian football on Channel 4 have obviously distorted the true picture over the past year.

Ronald Koeman was my choice with excellent displays for Holland, and winning the Spanish League and scoring the winning goal in the Champions' Cup final.

Perhaps readers should account more carefully for their choice, it is world footballer of the YEAR after all, not just the last 12 weeks of televised Football Italia.

— CHRIS EATON, 12 Oak Road, Brackley, Northants, NN13 6E2.

● I can understand your offering alternatives, but I think "disbelief" was too strong a reaction. Van Basten is a wonderful talent and performed magnificently for Milan throughout 1992.

But in the year of the European Finals in Sweden, I do agree his performances for Holland were below par. It would probably explain why Ronald Koeman missed out, too because he also failed to exert his normal influence.

But his Champions' Cup Final display for Barcelona at Wembley was one of the great individual performances of the season. My alternative would come from European Champions Denmark, because I felt their emergence during the tournament gave it a memorable flourish after a rather painful opening.

Their team spirit and unity grew stronger as each match went by, but the flair and skill of Brian Laudrup always caught the eye and gave the Danes the recognition their efforts deserved.

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Don't bet against Marseille

WITH the amazing, evergreen, 71-year-old Raymond Goethals back in charge, who would dare bet against Marseille retaining the title?

Before the break, they won what you might call a four-pointer when they beat Paris Saint-Germain thanks to a goal by the remarkable Croatian, Alen Boksic (right), whose header could well have decided the title.

Boksic's opportunism also has put his team well in line for a place in the Champions' Cup Final.

Note that when Boksic eventually went off in that bruising, ill-natured game in Paris, his substitute was no less than Germany's Rudi Voller, who had been out for many weeks with an injury. But whether Voller plays or not, it is clear that Boksic has to stay in.

A repeat title looks probable

His goal gave his team a lucky victory. PSG, without the injured George Weah, missed two tremendous opportunities. Twice the Marseille defence, despite a heavy complement of internationals, was split. Twice PSG let them off when goals seemed certain.

Marseille are not exactly a team you can love, unless you happen to support them. Far too many bruising fouls for that. Indeed, at Ibrox, even Rangers seemed surprised by the physical force they had to contend with. That particular boot used to be on the other foot.

Goethals, however, never has been a man associated with rough tactics. He's a wily old bird. Players who know him still appreciate him on the grounds of his practical psychology, his inspired ability to work with the group, and his immense tactical skill.

As one who played for him at Anderlecht says, his skill in analysing the opposition, in showing up their weak spots, kills any desire to laugh at his ways.

That fine defender, Patrick Battiston, a World Cup player in two tournaments; says: "In this man there's an endless process of tactical analysis. His sense of humour is a bonus."

The one criticism you tend to hear of the splendid old fox is from players who found themselves outside the charmed circle of his team. He does not like to change.

Even when first-choice players play badly, he tends to keep them, in the hope that in time they will improve. Which is pretty hard on those who wait impatiently in the wings.

"If you're in," says Didier Senac, who served under Goethals in his days at Bordeaux, "no problem; you'll play the whole season. On the other hand, if that's not the case, you have to wait for an injury or a suspension. He doesn't turn his team round."

I wonder whether Igor Dobrovolski (below) knew all this when he agreed to join Marseille, on loan, from Genoa. Dobrovolski did pretty well in Sweden for the CIS but, since Genoa bought him from Moscow Dynamo a couple of seasons ago, he has been shifted from Castellon in Spain to Servette in Geneva, then back to Italy.

There, alas, things did not turn out too well. His style did not fit, and if he convinces at Marseille, Genoa are willing to sell him.

Auxerre, of course, are among those shooting it out at the top. With their splendid record of home-grown talent, they do not too often go into the market, but the man they signed a year or so ago from Brest, Corentin Martins, has turned out pretty well.

When Brest went bust, Martins was one of their players most in demand among the leading clubs. He chose Auxerre, unsure whether Bordeaux, who wanted him badly, would succeed in climbing out of Division II, where they had been relegated as a punishment for Claude Bez's financial extravagances.

The fee for Martins, 1.25 million francs, went straight to the liquidator. "Brest would never have released such a player under normal conditions," says Auxerre's manager, Guy Roux.

Though Martins was born in Brest, his parents are Portuguese, and his father went to France to work as a builder. Corentin has double nationality, but does not know Portugal well. If he ever wins a full cap, and he already has played for the "B" team in London, it will be for France.

On his debut for Auxerre in December, 1991, Martins glided through the whole Sochaux defence for a spectacular goal. He has happy memories of a Brest team including the present PSG players David Ginola, who missed one of those sitters against Marseille, and keeper Bernard Lama.

Note, by the way, that even without Weah, PSG had rattled in five goals at home to Bordeaux, whose defence until then had been perhaps the best in the League.

The fifth goal was by the French international, 31-year-old Amara Simba, against a club hot on his trail now that he has returned after seven months out with injury.

That ruled him out of the European Championship, in which France could have done with his pace and thrust.

ANDRE **DUCLOS**

Can Caen keep a grip?

Gravelaine may be next for gravy train

SUPERB attacking play and the presence of television cameras combined to lift Caen and France striker Xavier Gravelaine to prominence.

Now the club have a problem: can they hold on to him as their wealthier rivals show interest?

Caen's 3-2 victory over Zaragoza in the UEFA Cup first round last September was broadcast live to the nation, and Gravelaine took advantage to improve his personal ratings.

After only six minutes he worked a one-two with Dangbeto, cut inside and shot past keeper Cedrun. Paille deprived him of official credit by applying a final touch just before the ball crossed the goal-line, but Gravelaine was undoubtedly the architect.

Later he scored a brilliant second. In one movement he cushioned Cauet's centre with his left foot and fired a searing volley with his right. Then, to seal an eye-catching display, he created another for Paille.

Although Caen lost the return 2-0 and were eliminated, millions of French armchair observers had seen and noted Gravelaine's skill.

Less than two years earlier, he was playing for Laval in the relative anonymity of the Second Division. Now his name was on everybody's lips, and he was in an intense media spotlight.

"Following those UEFA Cup matches against Zaragoza my telephone would not stop ringing," says Gravelaine.

"Journalists used to ignore me. Then they all wanted to talk to me."

Gravelaine did not allow himself to be distracted. He scored in each of Caen's next four games, and was rewarded with selection for France's World Cup qualifiers against Austria and Finland. "I thought he showed much promise," was the verdict of manager Gerard Houllier.

"I used Gravelaine in a three-pronged attack alongside Papin and Cantona and they linked well together. As Xavier is left-footed, he provides the team with a good balance.

"His play is so positive. He is always prepared to take on defenders. Many attackers today do not seem to relish taking risks. Xavier is not among them."

Gravelaine has continued on his striking spree. He claimed a hat-trick in Caen's 3-0 away demolition of Lens and led the League scorers with 12 goals.

"I'm not obsessed with thoughts of becoming the country's top marksman. My main objective is to keep my place in the French squad. I have only just started to experience the thrill of international football and I will be doing all I can to stay."

Gravelaine was born in 1968, and at 15 he was signed as an apprentice by Nantes, a club with a reputation for nurturing young talent. He was not destined to be one of their success stories.

Despite being a midfield general of considerable potential, he clashed frequently with the coaches, and in 1988 he was released on loan.

He spent temporary periods at minor league Pau and Second Division Saint-Seurin and Laval. And, as he matured, he thrived on a diet of regular first-team soccer.

His form for Laval during 1990-91 was particularly impressive. He hit 12 goals in 32 appearances and helped the club to reach the promotion play-offs.

Caen's coach, Daniel Jandupeux, was keen to recruit him, and a four-year deal was concluded.

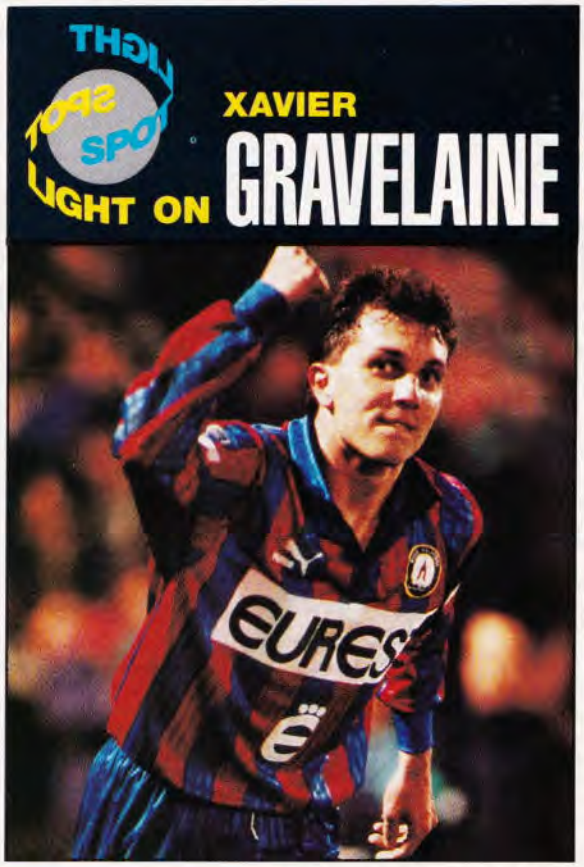
Gravelaine missed only four matches last season as Caen finished fifth and won a UEFA Cup place.

Rumours abound that he will move to Marseille or PSG, and there is much doubt as to Caen's ability to keep him. They are restricted to a meagre annual budget of £4.5 million, and a new stadium has to be financed.

"I would love to play for a big club," says Gravelaine.

"But I'm contracted to Caen until 1995. If another team make an offer for me, it will be up to my chairman, Guy Chambilly. It will be his decision whether I stay or go."

NICK **BIDWELL**



PRO-FILE

XAVIER GRAVELAINE

CAEN AND FRANCE

Born: October 5, 1968, in Tours.

Previous clubs: Nantes, Pau, Saint-Seurin, Laval.

First Division debut: July 20, 1991, for Caen v Toulouse.

International debut: October 14, 1992 v Austria.

International caps: 2 (0 goals).

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	20	12	4	4	33	14	28
Nantes	20	11	6	3	36	18	28
Marseille	20	10	7	3	32	22	27
Paris SG	20	10	6	4	37	16	26
Auxerre	20	11	4	5	35	22	16
Bordeaux	19	9	5	5	23	16	23
Saint-Etienne	20	8	6	6	18	14	22
Strasbourg	20	6	10	4	32	29	22
Montpellier	20	8	4	8	20	21	20
Caen	20	7	5	8	31	27	19
Lyon	20	3	13	4	19	19	19
Sochaux	20	7	5	8	17	31	19
Toulouse	19	4	9	6	18	22	17
Le Havre	20	5	7	8	20	29	17
Metz	20	3	9	8	21	29	15
Lens	20	3	9	8	18	32	15
Lille	20	4	7	9	12	26	15
Valenciennes	20	3	8	9	20	28	14
Nimes	20	2	10	8	20	31	14
Toulon	20	2	8	10	15	31	12

PSG's Calderaro takes on Nantes defender Makelele.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

LE HAVRE 2 (Tiehy 38, 74)
TOULON 1 (Passi 76). **Att:** 6.900.

NIMES 1 (Buffat 9)
AUXERRE 2 (Martins 38, 65). **Att:** 8.332.

LENS 0
LYON 3 (Fugier 44, Abou 64, Delamontagne 82). Att 14.407.

MONACO 2 (Gnako 16, Klinsmann 36)
METZ 0. **Att:** 3.000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Lizarazu 86)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 20.000.

NANTES 1 (Quedec pen 31)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 38.000.

MARSEILLE 2 (Sauzee 47, Pele 81)
VALENCIENNES 1 (Kovacs 18). **Att:** 20.000.

ST ETIENNE 0
LILLE 0. **Att:** 11.421

SOCHAUX 1 (Robert 68)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 3.000.

STRASBOURG 3 (Keller 14, Farina 60, Cobos 75)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Ferhaoui 39). **Att:** 24.776.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 0
MARSEILLE 1 (Boksic 22). **Att:** 46.000.

AUXERRE 4 (Prunier 40 pen, Laslandes 53, 65 pen, Guerreiro 62)
LE HAVRE 1 (Moreau 15). **Att:** 10.000.

TOULON 2 (Xuereb 2, Anziani 33)
LENS 2 (Laigle 5, Omam-Biyik 18). **Att:** 1.500.

LYON 0
MONACO 0. **Att:** 27.208.

METZ 1 (Sechet 47)

BORDEAUX 1 (Dogon pen 66). **Att:** 7.468.

TOULOUSE 2 (Bancarel 2, Nemecek 6)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 16.039.

VALENCIENNES 0
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 12.500.

LILLE 2 (Assadourian 15, Tihy 72)
NIMES 2 (Buffat 60, Martel 88). **Att:** 3.000.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Ziober 17)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 5.000.

CAEN 3 (Germain 4, Gravelaine 6, Dedebant 85)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 7.439.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEEKEND

MONACO 4 (Klinsmann 7, 32, 52, 57)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 9.000.

NANTES 1 (Oudec 48)
LYON 0. **Att:** 16.050.

MARSEILLE 5 (Boksic 2, 82, Voller 18, 30, 64)
TOULON 2 (Meyrieu 23, 40). **Att:** 17.000.

SOCHAUX 1 (Clement 83)
PARIS SG 3 (Weah 52, Fournier 71, Ginola 79). **Att:** 6.239.

BORDEAUX 3 (Salaun 8, Senac 44, Zidane 77)
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 12.762.

ST ETIENNE 2 (E. Mendy 45, Luhovy 66)
METZ 0. **Att:** 15.000.

STRASBOURG 0
VALENCIENNES 0. **Att:** 15.927.

MONTPELLIER 0
TOULOUSE 1 (Bancarel 60). **Att:** 8.000.

CAEN 4 (Gravelaine 2, 32, Dedebant 39, 44). **Att:** 7.171.
LILLE 3 (Oleksiak 27, Nouma 40 pen, Lebourgeois 64 o.g.)

LENS 0
NIMES 0. **Att:** 11.326.

HOLLAND

Flying start with four from two

FOUR vital goals in Holland's last two World Cup qualifying games could not have come at a better time for new boy Peter Van Vossen, or for his country.

His two against Poland earned a point and spared a few red faces. Then he took over from the injured Marco Van Basten in Istanbul to score two of the three goals (Ruud Gullit got the other to celebrate his comeback) that beat the Turks 3-1.

But Van Basten had an ankle operation and was declared out of action for three months.

Barring accidents, Van Vossen will be around. Cynics might describe the timing as luck, but there was no luck around Dick Advocaat's judgment.

Taking over from a manager of the calibre of Rinus Michels was no easy task for Advocaat.

He was not going to operate any sort of clear-out and bring in "his own boys". On the surface, no change seemed likely.

After all Stanley Menzo had been the No. 2 keeper to Hans Van Breukelen. He stayed on as No. 1 and got his chance. But after two blunders against Poland, suggestions that he is too nervous in internationals appeared to be right.

So the new No. 2, Ed de Goey of Feyenoord, played against Turkey and did so well that Van Vossen said: "Okay, so I scored two goals, but for me and the rest of the lads Ed was our hero. Turkey could have been 2-0 up before we ever had a chance."

A few months ago Van Vossen was a Dutch forward with Anderlecht without anything like a big name.

Advocaat wanted him in the group because, like Advocaat was when he was a player, Van Vossen is a 90-minute fighter — as he proved against Poland and Turkey.

De Goey has a new team-mate at Feyenoord — central striker John Van Loen, seven times a Dutch international.

He has been transfered from great rivals Ajax, whose coach, Louis van Gaal, did not want to keep him at the club.

Van Loen will remember that the last forward transferred from Ajax to Feyenoord was Johan Cruyff, who helped his new club to honours that had escaped Feyenoord for too long.

Ajax bought Van Loen from Anderlecht 18 months ago, for £1.5 million. Now he has gone for about half that amount.

Van Gaal explains: "We have enough forwards in our own camp. When Bryan Roy went to Foggia, 19-year-old Edgar Davids took his place.

"Now I believe 20-year-old Clyde Wijnhard can become a third central striker after Dennis Bergkamp and Stefan Pettersson."

Into the office

PSV EINDHOVEN goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen (above) is now 36, and next season will be his last as a player.

He wants to be a manager. Not a coach — as Bobby Robson learned from his two years with PSV, a Dutch manager is not the same as in England.

The coach is the team boss. The manager runs the club and handles contracts, transfers, and so on.

Robson said: "Quite different from my Ipswich days, where I had to do everything. Here I can relax a bit. Kees Ploegsma, the manager, sees to that."

Van Breukelen said: "Of course I learned a lot from Brian Clough when I was with Nottingham Forest, but I reckon Ploegsma's position here at PSV is ideal.

"He knows what my aim is. But one thing is for sure — I won't sit around waiting for him to move or retire."

ERIC **NICHOLLS**

BELGIUM

More goals, fewer fans

A WELCOME increase in goals was a feature of the first half of the Belgian season. A drop in gates was a less satisfying aspect.

There were 493 goals in 193 League games, an average of 3.22, and 111 more than at the same stage last time.

But attendances at First Division matches were generally down by several thousand per club.

Amateur football seems to be increasing in popularity, but the drop at the top is a disturbing trend.

Anderlecht led the table with 29 points from 17 games, having lost only once, with Standard Liege

Setters steps

JACK CHARLTON has been in charge of the Republic of Ireland for 64 games, but is to miss his first match.

He is going to watch Albania play Northern Ireland in a World Cup qualifier this month, leaving his team in the hands of his assistant, Maurice Setters.

They are playing a friendly in Dublin against Wales, who provided the opposition in March 1986 — Charlton's first game in charge.

The Welsh spoiled his debut by winning 1-0, and after six years without an Irish defeat in Dublin, Wales spoiled that run by winning 1-0 last February. In between the Irish had won 1-0 in Dublin and 3-0 in Wrexham.

The latest game, a warm-up for the World Cup qualifier against Northern

SPOTLIGHT ON STEPHANE CHAPUISAT

On top of the mountain

Gabet's boy shows the Germans how to score

THE little prince has become a king, according to the Swiss media. Stephane Chapuisat is perhaps Switzerland's best striker ever.

But the accolade "world class" was not bestowed upon him by his own patriotic and often chauvinistic watchers. The award was made in Germany, where he plays for Borussia Dortmund.

The country's leading sports paper, *Kicker*, produces half-yearly rankings, noted for their conservative assessments. They rate Chapuisat as the only world-class striker connected with German football, leaving behind such players as Voller, Riedle and Klinsmann.

The paper lists Chapuisat's goals, dribbling skill, trickery, passing accuracy and artistic party-pieces.

He was second last season in the Bundesliga list with 20 goals, two fewer than Stuttgart's Fritz Walter, but in a special classification, in which every goal and every "assist" count for one point, he finished on top, with 20 goals and 10 assists.

Small wonder that clubs from France, Spain and Italy are clamouring for Chapuisat, Switzerland's 1991 Footballer of the Year.

But he has been put off Italian football by the numerous foreigners kicking their heels in calcio, and has extended his contract with Dortmund till 1995.

Success has not spoiled him. "I'm still the same person I always was," he says.

"I'm calm and rarely nervous, even before big matches. I did at first experience cold sweat running down my back when I took the field, but I have got used to it. Now even the noisiest reception makes no difference."

Chapuisat lives quite modestly. "I don't need extravagant accessories and I don't own a flashy car, but one loaned to me by the club," he says.

Like a typical Swiss, sober and solid, he never makes rash predictions and remains disarmingly shy.

Chapuisat was born on June 28, 1966, in Lausanne and as is customary in Switzerland he learned a trade before becoming a professional footballer; he is a qualified salesman.

He began his career with Red Star Zurich at 11, and continued with Lausanne's juniors. Later he starred for Etoile Sportif Malley, with whom he won promotion to the Second Division, and in 1987 he returned to Lausanne, scoring 40 goals in 116 games.

In January 1991 he was transferred to Bayer Uerdingen in Germany and when they were relegated six months later he signed on loan for Borussia Dortmund.

He turned down Stuttgart because team manager Ottmar Hitzfeld, whom he got to know and trust in Switzerland, joined Dortmund.

They paid a loan fee to Uerdingen of £133,000 and subsequently took Chapuisat permanently for £850,000. Today he is worth at least £3m, but has £2m written into his contract. Anything above that figure means that he collects 20 per cent as his cut.

The fans idolise him. "I get about 50 fan letters a week," he says. "I like it in Dortmund, the team is super, the support marvellous. Although the competition for places is formidable, I couldn't be happier."

The man who had the greatest influence on his career was his father Pierre-Albert, a former international defender, now team manager at Renens and a part-time journalist. But Gabet, as he is nicknamed, presents a complete contrast to his son. He is aggressive and

second four points behind.

The leaders then resumed where they left off, beating bottom club Lommel 4-2, but Standard surprisingly crashed 5-1 at home to Antwerp.

Four clubs were level on 22 points, including Waregem, who had lost some momentum after their earlier remarkable form. Their achievements included away wins over Anderlecht, Standard and Club Brugge — the first time any club has beaten the big three away in the same season.

The national team are almost certain of qualification for US '94, but their holiday was marred by illness. Former coach Guy Thys, 70, who works in a PR role, had an emergency kidney operation just before Christmas.

Thys (above) recovered sufficiently to be allowed home, but his future contribution could be open to doubt.

Transfers that beat the year-end deadline included Shalom Tikva and Danny Muller from Standard to FC Boom, Antwerp's signing of Edan Pejovic from Hadjuk Split and his fellow Slav, Denis Erceg, from Sedan in France, and a Croat, Greg Kovacs, from Bordeaux to Kortrijk.

Boom's signings appear to have had little effect — their 7-0 defeat at Ekeren, who are only one place further up the table, meant that Boom had conceded 57 goals in 18 games.

Black spot: Dirk De Vriese of RWD Molenbeek was sent off three times in the first half of the season, and booked on three other occasions.

JAN-HERMEN **DE BRUIJN**

up as Charlton checks

Ireland in March, will be played at Tolka Park, now an all-seat stadium with a capacity of only 9,000. The Republic have played only one full international there, in February 1981 . . . when Wales won 3-1.

Kevin Moran has been cleared to play against Northern Ireland, thanks to an observant Irish journalist.

FIFA News claimed that Moran would miss the game after yellow cards against Denmark and Spain, but Moran was *not* booked against the Danes.

FIFA admitted that the Polish referee had made an error. Niall Quinn was the Irish player booked in Copenhagen, but according to the referee's report the player booked was "Ireland's No. 9, Kevin Moran".

FAI Harp Lager Cup-holders Bohemians have been drawn away to Premier Division colleagues Drogheda United in the first round of this year's competition.

Non-League Temple United from Cork got a dream draw, a trip to play Derry City.

The six clubs who will play off for the Premier Division championship are Bohemians, Cork City, Derry City, Shelbourne, Dundalk and either St Patrick's Athletic or Limerick.

Shamrock Rovers, who hold the record of 14 League titles, are left to finish the League campaign in the relegation zone.

Limerick took the League Cup, beating St Patrick's Athletic at Harold's Cross.

Galway United added the Shield to their trophy cabinet when beating Home Farm in the final.

SEAN **CREEDON**

temperamental and always has a lot to say for himself.

He used to advise on all important matters, but now that they live in separate countries and miss regular contact, Stephane has acquired his own business manager-cum-agent.

His immediate target is to win something with Borussia, the only German team left in Europe. His contribution so far has been outstanding, with decisive UEFA Cup goals against Celtic and Zaragoza.

Chapuisat always thinks positively, and claims that his strength is his sincerity and his belief in God.

He is the key figure as the Swiss aim for their first major finals since 1958.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

PRO-FILE

STEPHANE CHAPUISAT
BORUSSIA DORTMUND AND SWITZERLAND

Born: June 28, 1966, in Lausanne.

Previous clubs: Red Star Zurich, Lausanne, Etolie Sportif Malley, Lausanne, Bayer Uerdingen.

International caps: 26 (7 goals).

Swiss Footballer of the Year: 1991.

SWITZERLAND

Boys come of age

THE first phase of the Swiss League programme brought one big surprise and one real sensation.

The under-rated Young Boys finished in pole position, one point ahead of Servette, and could be in line for their first championship since 1986.

By contrast, Grasshopper Zurich, the country's most successful club, failed to reach the eight-club championship play-off pool for the first time, and left their supporters bewildered.

The club's decline has sent shock waves through Swiss football, and the recriminations seem never-ending.

Heavy financial losses will arise from having to play in the relegation pool. "Many fans of other clubs are now rubbing their hands in glee," said the business manager, Erich Vogel.

Not since they dropped into the Second Division 53 years ago have the "Hoppers" been so deflated. That this should happen so soon after Leo Beenhakker took over as coach is certainly poignant, but he will stay in the job — for the time being anyway.

While Zurich mourns, Berne is jubilant. Young Boys manager Martin Trumpler made some shrewd signings, such as goalkeeper Peter Kobel from Solothurn, midfielder Hans Moser from Luzern and Polish striker Piotr Nowak from Turkey's Bakirkoy.

With Danish international striker Bent Christensen, top Norwegian marksman Jahn-Ivar Jakobsen and Swiss veteran international Georges Bregy, the "Boys" present a powerful mixture of technicians and fighters.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

AUSTRIA

Prohaska is the new chief

THE TASK of succeeding the late Ernst Happel as Austria's team manager is bound to be a big one, but Herbert Prohaska might well be the man to tackle it.

Few Austrians have packed as much experience into a comparatively short period as Prohaska, who has been appointed at the age of 37.

He played for Austria Vienna in two lengthy spells on either side of a three-year stint in Italy, first with Internazionale and then with Roma.

On his retirement in 1989 he had gained 83 caps, with Vienna's 1978 appearance in the Cup-winners' Cup Final among the highlights of his career.

He later coached the club for a time before taking over as boss of the Under-21 selection.

Four clubs dismissed their managers during the autumn session: Dieter Mirnegg (Stahl Linz), Peter Barthold (Modling), Ernst Weber (Vorwarts Steyr) and Robert Pflug (Sturm Graz).

Only Modling found a more than adequate replacement in the person of Hans Krankl, once a world-class striker, lately coach — not so successful — with Rapid Vienna.

Former Czechoslovak international Ladislav Jurkemik, who took over from Pflug at Graz, failed to win a point from his first five matches in charge.

The national team's midfield dynamo, Andy Herzog, now with Werder Bremen, was voted Austria's Footballer of the Year. Herzog joined Bremen from Rapid and now has 37 caps.

Peter Artner (Admira Wacker) and Peter Stoger (FK Austria) took second and third places.

Harald Cerny, the new great hope of Austria football, was fifth in the poll. He was discovered at Admira Wacker, but would not extend his contract and later turned down Rapid and Austria Salzburg.

He also rejected an offer from Koln and signed for Bayern Munich as a contracted amateur. Cerny, 19, is in line to make his debut in the national side. "He will go far," says Bayern team boss Ribbeck.

ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

TABLES

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	18	14	3	1	44	15	31
Standard Liege	18	11	3	4	36	24	25
Mechelen	18	11	0	7	32	22	22
Waregem	18	9	4	5	47	26	22
Gent	18	9	4	5	31	20	22
Club Brugge	18	9	4	5	22	15	22
RWDM	18	6	8	4	28	20	20
Antwerp	18	9	1	8	34	32	19
Charleroi	18	8	3	7	31	28	19
Beveren	18	7	5	6	18	21	19
Lierse	18	7	4	7	28	27	18
Cercle	18	6	4	8	40	42	16
FC Liege	18	6	4	8	25	37	16
Genk	18	5	6	7	21	20	16
Ekeren	18	4	3	11	28	40	11
Boom	18	4	2	12	28	57	10
Lokeren	18	3	5	10	19	34	10
Lommel	18	2	2	14	17	48	6

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Elhdhoven	15	12	2	1	42	8	26
Utrecht	16	9	5	2	29	17	23
Feyenoord	15	8	5	2	35	16	21
MVV Maastricht	16	8	4	3	27	24	20
FC Twente	14	8	3	3	27	12	19
Ajax	13	7	4	2	29	11	18
Vitesse Arnhem	15	5	7	3	22	12	17
Volendam	15	5	5	5	23	14	15
Willem II	16	5	5	6	15	17	15
Groningen	16	5	5	6	17	24	15
GA Eagles	16	5	4	7	22	29	14
Sparta	14	3	7	4	15	17	13
Roda JC	15	6	0	9	25	29	12
RKC Waalwijk	15	4	4	7	16	31	12
Cambuur	16	2	6	8	13	27	10
Fortuna Sittard	15	3	2	10	14	36	8
SVV/Dordrecht	15	2	3	10	9	31	7
Den Bosch	15	1	5	9	12	37	7

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Avenir Beggen	14	7	5	2	25	13	19
Jeunesse Esch	14	8	3	3	24	12	19
Union	14	7	4	3	25	14	18
Grevenmacher	14	5	6	3	23	15	16
Dudeldange	14	5	6	3	15	10	16
Esch Fola	14	4	5	5	14	20	13
Spora	15	4	5	6	15	25	13
Red Boys	13	3	6	4	23	24	12
Aris Bonnevoie	14	2	5	7	17	27	9
Ettelbruck	14	1	3	10	9	30	5

AUSTRIA
Autumn championship final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria Salzburg	22	11	7	4	45	27	29
Wacker Innsbruck	22	10	8	4	45	22	28
Austria Vienna	22	12	4	6	47	25	28
Sportclub	22	11	5	6	31	33	27
Rapid	22	9	8	5	34	26	26
Admira Wacker	22	11	3	8	47	23	25
St Polten	22	6	10	6	34	37	22
Vorwarts Steyr	22	8	6	8	30	34	22
VfB Modling	22	8	3	11	39	41	19
LASK	22	4	6	12	21	46	14
Stahl Linz	22	3	6	13	19	43	12
Sturm Graz	22	3	6	13	23	49	12

SWITZERLAND
Autumn championship final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Young Boys	22	11	6	5	44	30	28
Servette	22	10	7	5	32	18	27
Sion	22	8	10	4	28	21	26
Lausanne	22	7	10	5	28	21	24
Aarau	22	9	6	7	30	34	24
Zurich	22	8	7	7	21	22	23
Neuchatel Xamax	22	6	10	6	30	26	22
Lugano	22	7	8	7	29	28	22
Grasshopper	22	5	11	6	27	27	21
St. Gallen	22	4	10	8	21	28	18
Chiasso	22	5	6	11	15	26	16
Bulle	22	4	5	13	18	42	13

The top eight clubs advance to the championship phase starting in March after the winter break. The bottom four compete in relegation/promotion play-offs with leading Second Division teams.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	21	10	9	2	36	11	29
Cork City	21	12	5	4	36	24	29
Derry City	22	9	10	3	17	12	28
Shelbourne	21	10	6	5	41	23	26
Dundalk	22	8	10	4	29	24	26
St Patrick's Ath.	22	5	13	4	19	17	23
Limerick	21	5	11	5	23	18	21
Shamrock Rov.	22	6	6	10	33	25	18
Drogheda	22	3	11	8	20	32	17
Sligo Rovers	22	4	9	9	10	25	17
Bray Wand.	22	2	9	11	13	35	13
Waterford Utd	22	5	3	14	22	51	13

THE SPOTLIGHT ON

JUAN JOSE
BORRELLI

No tax on talent

The boy who paid the bill starts a new life

ARGENTINE taxmen played a part in midfielder Juan Jose Borrelli's transfer from River Plate to Greece last year.

Cash-starved River had been struggling to pay a £3.1 million tax bill when Panathinaikos president George Vardinoyannis moved in to offer £1.2 million for Borrelli. His club's financial plight meant they were in no position to refuse. Like so many Argentine footballers, Borrelli was bound for Europe.

Ironically River could not count on all the proceeds. South American agent Settimo Aloisio owned half of Borrelli's contract and was thus entitled to 50 per cent of the fee.

"I love my country and was not in any hurry to leave for Europe," says 21-year-old Borrelli. "But River Plate needed the money.

"Football in Argentina is suffering from financial problems. Every ambitious player knows he must move abroad to earn a decent living.

"I am not a greedy person. I make more money in Greece, but a lot goes to my family back in Buenos Aires."

While River Plate took small consolation from the reduction of their tax burden, Panathinaikos believe they have pulled off a major coup.

"Juan Jose is one of South America's most talented young players," says general manager Manos Mavrokoukoulakis. "He just needs time to adapt to a different style of football and new way of life. Once he has settled, he will be a great asset to our club.

"We aim to regain the Greek title which we lost to AEK Athens. A schemer of Borrelli's class should help us to achieve that aim."

Borrelli helped River Plate to clinch the first stage of the Argentine National "A" Division and reach the final of the South American Super Cup, for Libertadores Cup winners, where they lost 3-2 to Cruzeiro of Brazil.

To crown an outstanding year, Borrelli was fifth in the South American Footballer of the Year poll for 1991, won by compatriot Oscar Ruggeri.

Borrelli's long blonde hair and extravagant skill have led to inevitable comparisons with Argentine international Claudio Caniggia.

"They have much in common," says River Plate forward Ramon Diaz. "Both began at River Plate, they look remarkably alike, and they are very talented.

"Borrelli is a more accomplished all-round player. Caniggia is an out-and-out attacker, who relies on his extraordinary pace. Borrelli has greater technical ability and is versatile enough to fill a number of roles.

"He can perform anywhere up front, but his best position is that of a creative midfielder.

"Since I returned to River Plate from Monaco last year I've been really impressed with Borrelli. I see no reason why he should not develop into one of the best players Argentina has produced for several years."

Juan Jose Borrelli was born on November 8, 1970, and from the age of five he began to take part in six-a-side soccer matches. As a youngster he played for the San Isidro and Independiente Beccar clubs and his talent stood out sharply in the local juvenile leagues.

He was 14 when River Plate signed him, and a year later he helped the club's youth team to capture their first national championship for 25 years.

Borrelli's reward was twofold. He earned promotion to the reserve squad and was selected by the national youth team coach, Carlos Pachame, for a South American Championship qualifier against Peru in Lima.

Then, in October 1988, club manager Cesar Luis Menotti gave him his first-team debut, against Racing Cordoba.

Then Argentine newspapers reported that Borrelli had signed an option to join Italian club Verona for the following season.

River Plate were said to have accepted a £250,000 fee, but Verona ultimately lost interest and instead bought Uruguayan Nelson Gutierrez from Lazio.

The speculation unsettled Borrelli and he proved unable to convince Menotti that he was worthy of a first-team spot.

Nor did his prospects improve in the first half of the 1989-90 season. Menotti had been replaced by the coaching tandem of Reinaldo Merlo and Norberto Alonso and they insisted the team adopt a counter-attacking strategy.

Borrelli was given only rare tastes of action, and even then his natural flair was stifled in an unsuitable ball-winning role.

But early in 1990 Merlo and Alonso resigned and former River Plate and Argentina skipper Daniel Passarella took charge. This was the turning point of Borrelli's career.

Passarella was not renowned as the most subtle of central defenders. But he promised that River would revert to a more attacking style, and decided to use Borrelli's virtuosity in an advanced midfield position.

He immediately began to link spectacularly with twin strikers Ramon Medina Bello and Ruben Da Silva, and River Plate romped home in the championship race, seven points ahead of Independiente.

In September 1991 national team manager Alfio Basile recognised Borrelli's promise and gave him his first full cap in a charity match against a Rest of America XI.

Passarella says: "Borrelli is a natural talent who ties defenders in knots. He also has a good attitude and always listens to the advice given him.

"If he keeps his feet on the ground, he'll enjoy a wonderful career."

NICK **BIDWELL**

MALTA

Pippo can be proud

MALTA hit the headlines with a remarkable display in the World Cup qualifier against Italy.

In front of a capacity crowd of 16,000 the Italians took the lead after 59 minutes through Vialli, with new boy Signori adding a second three minutes later.

Maltese captain Kristian Laferla's penalty was parried by Pagliuca before Martin Gregory reduced the deficit four minutes from time.

The euphoric local crowd paid tribute to their team, so near to causing sensational embarrassment to the multi-million Italians.

Coach Pippo Psaila (left) said Malta were extremely unlucky not to draw: "Football can be very cruel at times."

Psaila is certainly the man of the moment. Assisted by trainer Georgi Deanov, a Bulgarian, he has managed to blend a national side based on a fresh professional attitude, who draw respect from everybody.

In the Premier League, Floriana kept marching on and led the table with 18 points from ten games. Hamrun Spartans continued their remarkable recovery to go to second place, four points behind.

Striker Dennis Mizzi, back in the side after a long absence, is one reason why Hamrun have scored 28 goals.

Champions Valletta kept up the challenge with a 4-1 win over Birkirkara. Ivan Camilleri, signed from St. George's scored twice on his debut.

Brian Talbot's Hibernians seem to be slipping. They dropped a point against Sliema in the first official Premier League match to be played under the recently-inaugurated floodlighting system at the National Stadium.

Mellieha and St. George's remain anchored at the bottom, destined to go back where they both came from last term.

DOMENICO **AQUILINA**

ISRAEL

Triple trouble for Scharf

DEFEAT in the first three qualifying games for the World Cup burst Israel's bubble of hope and brought fierce criticism for the team and coach Shlomo Scharf (right).

Liverpool striker Ronny Rosenthal even asked for a meeting with Scharf to clear the air over reported differences concerning tactics.

Despite the setbacks at international level, gates and standards are well up on previous years at club level.

Betar Jerusalem, led by Eli Ohana, topped the table for many weeks, playing to full houses of 12,000 at the magnificent new stadium which they share with Second Division Hapoel Jerusalem.

Betar, just promoted, have been a revelation. Russian imports Vladimir Greishneb and Sergei Trativiuk have brought some European finesse, and young striker Ronen Harazi has been playing well alongside Ohana.

Champions Maccabi Tel Aviv, however, won a "six-pointer" against Betar 2-0 before a 32,000 gate at the National Stadium and a 4-1 defeat of Maccabi Petah Tikva put them top by a point.

Maccabi Haifa, under astute coach Giora Spiegel, demolished Hapoel Haifa 4-0 in the derby match. Russian striker Ivan Getzko is proving to be well worth his £150,000 fee.

MARK **RIVLIN**

TURKEY

Tanju facing nine years in jail!

TANJU COLAK, one of the biggest names in Turkish soccer, is facing 112 months in prison, a huge fine, and the end of his career.

Fenerbahce striker Tanju (below) has been released on bail pending an appeal against his conviction for knowingly buying a smuggled Mercedes.

Authorities in Istanbul, known for their severe penalties, imposed a sentence of nine years and four months on Tanju, and fined him a staggering 5.5 billion lire — about £400,000 sterling.

Tanju, who has scored 10 goals in 31 games for Turkey, was tempted into a disastrous deal. A Mercedes car is a big status symbol in Turkey, and he was persuaded to buy one which had been imported illegally from Germany.

The case has caused the latest and greatest sensation in Tanju's career. He has been an outstanding player for the past decade, scoring consistently, taking the Golden Boot award in 1988 and helping Galaterasaray to reach the Champions' Cup semi-final in 1990, as well as winning many domestic honours.

His move to Fenerbahce nearly two years ago cost a Turkish record fee of £1 million and divided the fans.

The transfer was akin to a Celtic player crossing Glasgow to join Rangers.

Tanju, who is married with two children, was 29 last November, and any lengthy jail sentence must affect his future career.

On the playing side, Kocaelispor, in their first season after promotion, maintained their surprise lead and were two points clear of a group of four — Fenerbahce, Galatasaray, Besiktas and Trabzonspor.

The eventual finish seems likely to be the closest for years.

A former Besiktas player, Guvenc Kurtar, is now coach of Kocaelispor, who are going to take some stopping.

They have won the most games and scored the most goals, and still have nine home matches to play and only seven away.

Saffet of Kocaelispor is the leading scorer with 16 goals. Tanju had scored 10 before falling foul of the law.

One oddity: referee Adanan Turker disallowed a Gaziantep goal against Ankaragucu, claiming that the ball had gone through the side netting behind a post.

He later watched a television replay of the incident, admitted he was wrong, and resigned from the refereeing list.

HASAN **CEMALI**

GREECE

AEK lead, off the pitch as well

THERE is more to football than mere football, as AEK players and staff have indicated.

They joined fans in donating 150 pints of blood to a local hospital, for use in a special project helping anaemic children.

"The community role in the game is significant," said the club president, Dimitris Milissanidis, one of those who gave blood. "We are planning other community ventures."

AEK continue to give a lead on the pitch, as well. After 17 matches they had a 13-3-1 record, and led their nearest challenger, Olympiakos, by two points. Panathinaikos are still in contention, three points further behind.

The League's top scorer,

Vasilis Dimitriadis (above), has 17 goals, two of them in AEK's 7-0 demolition of Korinthos.

Losing coach Spyros Livathinos paid tribute to AEK, calling them "one of the best sides ever to play in Greece".

Yugoslav exile Tony Saveski has been in good form as a creator for AEK, and 20-year-old midfielder Vasilis Tsartas had good cause to remember his debut; he scored twice.

AEK coach Dusan Bayevic vetoed the squad's plans for a nightclub outing to celebrate the size of the victory. Fitness first, he said.

LOU **ECONOMOPOULOS**

PORTUGAL

The rest still follow Porto

PORTO, Sporting and Benfica, the big three in Portuguese football, are again in the top positions.

Champions Porto led after 18 games with 29 points, refusing to give ground to their rivals, both four points behind.

Even though Benfica won 2-0 away to Pacos Ferreira and Sporting won at Tirsense by the only goal, Porto's 3-1 victory in Estoril on the following day retained their four-point margin. Porto also are leading scorers with 34 in a generally low scoring league.

Belensenses, the only other club ever to win the Portuguese title, are battling gamely in fifth place but appear to have little chance.

At the other end Chaves seem doomed to relegation with only one win so far.

The Big Three, naturally are making progress in the Cup as well.

All three are through to the last-16 stage, although Sporting had considerable difficulty before bringing off a 2-0 win against Academica.

Guimaraes, third from bottom in the table, were almost the victim of a Cup surprise but just managed to win 2-1 in extra time against Campomaiorense.

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apollon	11	7	3	1	31	14	24
Omonia	11	7	3	1	40	18	24
Salamina	11	7	2	2	20	9	23
Apoel	10	6	3	1	20	9	21
Anorthosis	10	6	1	3	15	13	19
Paralimni	11	5	1	5	21	25	17
Ethnikos	11	5	1	1	16	16	16
Aris	11	4	2	5	17	23	14
Evagoras	11	4	1	6	18	21	13
AEL	11	3	2	6	18	20	11
EPA	11	2	4	5	15	21	10
Olympiakos	11	3	1	7	10	26	8
Pezoporikos	11	1	5	5	15	19	8
APOP	11	1	1	9	7	30	4

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	17	13	3	1	40	12	42
Olympiakos	17	12	4	1	33	10	40
Panathinaikos	17	11	3	3	39	11	37
OFI	17	10	4	3	22	13	34
Iraklis	17	9	4	4	28	22	31
PAOK	17	8	2	7	20	20	26
Aris Salonika	17	7	3	7	21	18	24
Xanthi	17	6	4	7	33	36	22
Larissa	17	5	6	6	14	16	21
Doxa	17	5	5	7	21	32	20
Apollon	17	6	2	9	16	26	20
Panachaiki	17	5	4	8	22	26	19
Athinaikos	17	4	7	6	20	22	19
Edessaikos	17	4	3	10	19	42	15
Kalamaria	17	2	8	7	13	24	14
Ionikos	17	3	4	10	15	26	13
Korinthos	17	2	7	8	16	33	12
Pierikos	17	2	5	10	15	36	11

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	14	9	2	3	21	15	29
Maccabi Haifa	14	8	4	2	31	18	28
Mac. Tel Aviv	14	8	3	3	35	18	27
Bnei Yeoudah	14	7	2	5	27	24	23
Mac. Petah-Tikvah	14	5	5	4	26	20	20
Hapoel Tel Aviv	14	6	2	6	23	25	20
Hap. Beer-Shebah	14	5	4	5	18	18	19
Hapoel Holon	14	5	3	6	23	24	18
Hapoel Haifa	14	4	5	5	13	19	17
Mac. Nathanya	14	3	4	7	14	28	13
Betar Tel Aviv	14	3	1	10	14	28	10
Hap. Petah Tikvah	14	2	3	9	15	23	9

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Floriana	10	8	2	0	19	6	18
Hamrun Spt.	10	7	0	3	28	13	14
Valletta	9	5	2	2	16	9	12
Hibernians	10	5	2	3	21	17	12
Sliema Wand.	10	5	1	4	16	15	11
St. Andrew's	9	2	4	3	19	14	8
Birkirkara	9	2	2	5	12	18	6
Rabat Ajax	9	2	2	5	7	16	6
Melleha	10	2	1	7	7	23	5
St.George's	10	1	2	7	7	21	4

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	18	13	3	2	34	10	29
Sporting	18	9	7	2	29	13	25
Benfica	18	10	5	3	28	10	25
Boavista	18	8	5	5	22	15	21
Belenenses	18	7	7	4	20	15	21
Famalicao	18	6	8	4	16	17	20
Salgueiros	18	5	8	5	18	22	18
Beira-Mar	18	5	8	5	12	16	18
Sp. Braga	18	7	3	8	19	18	17
Maritimo	18	6	5	7	24	19	17
Gil Vicente	18	5	6	7	17	25	17
Espinho	18	5	6	7	18	25	16
Farense	18	4	8	6	16	17	16
Estoril	18	4	7	7	19	24	15
Tirsense	18	4	6	8	11	16	14
Guimaraes	18	6	2	10	18	28	14
P. Ferreira	18	4	5	9	18	32	13
Chaves	18	1	6	11	12	29	8

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kocaelispor	14	10	2	2	39	13	32
Fenerbahce	15	9	3	3	38	17	30
Galatasaray	14	9	3	2	26	9	30
Besiktas	15	8	6	1	29	13	30
Trabzonspor	15	8	6	1	26	10	30
Bursaspor	15	7	3	5	25	21	24
Ankaragucu	15	6	2	7	24	22	20
Sariyer	15	5	4	6	19	23	19
Bakirkoy	15	5	3	7	24	24	18
Altay	15	5	3	7	17	24	18
Genclerbirligi	15	4	5	6	19	27	17
Kayserispor	15	2	7	6	14	21	13
Aydinspor	15	3	4	8	11	26	13
Gaziantep	15	3	3	9	15	30	12
Karsiyaka	15	2	6	7	15	31	12
Konyaspor	15	0	6	9	13	43	6

NORWAY

Rosenborg lose another ace

A DECADE after Norwegian central defender Age Hareide played for Manchester City, the club signed another Norwegian, international Kare Ingebrigtsen from Rosenborg.

He spent a couple of weeks on trial in December before going on tour to China with Norway, and completed the £500,000 transfer in early January.

Ingebrigtsen, a 27-year-old midfielder (right) , has taken time to mature into an international. He was the understudy to midfield maestro Sverre Brandhaug at Rosenborg for several years but took over the central midfield role after the 1991 season, when Brandhaug was forced to retire.

He is a versatile player with good attacking qualities in addition to being the brain behind many of the Rosenborg moves. He has a fierce shot, and scored some important goals for Rosenborg.

Ingebrigtsen also played an important part in Norway's successful start in the World Cup qualifying matches.

He has played a total of 17 times for Norway, and his major aim now will be to break into the Manchester City side and show manager Egil Olsen that he will be a player to reckon with in the rest of the World Cup campaign.

Rosenborg already had lost Stig Inge Bjornebye to Liverpool, but they are determined to develop their team further, and will not be putting the cash into the bank.

Coach Nils Arne Eggen has added Kent Bergersen (Lyn Oslo) and Ole Einar Martinsen (Kongsvinger) to his squad. "Our football philosophy will not change," says Eggen. "But I admit that for us the ideal would have been to keep Bjornebye and Ingebrigtsen.

"We would then have been in a position to build on the successful period we had when we won both League and Cup."

SIGURD **ODEGAARD**

SWEDEN

AIK beat the bureaucrats

THE champions, AIK Stockholm, have won their battle against bureaucracy and managed to retain their Ukrainian forward Vadim Yevtushenko.

Earlier in the season Yevtushenko's residence visa seemed sure to be terminated, so that he would have to move back to his native country. But mainly thanks to AIK's protest, the authorities have now changed their policy, and sportsmen from the former Soviet Union will be allowed to stay in Sweden as long as they are contracted to a club.

Yevtushenko, a cult figure among AIK's fans, has been in Sweden for five years.

He is 35, but intends to carry on as a coach in Sweden after hanging up his foots.

"It would have been a disaster had we had to move back to Ukraine," he says. "I have one sister there, but no other ties with the country."

Orebro's new coach is Kent Karlsson, previously with IFK Norrkoping and Denmark's Lyngby.

PENTTI **HIETANEN**

FINLAND

Lindholm in charge

TOMMY LINDHOLM, 45, is Finland's new national coach in succession to Jukka Vakkila, who resigned in December.

Lindholm is a former Finnish international midfielder, who won 47 caps between 1964-74. He played for TPS Turku, and had a spell in Turkey with Besiktas. His place in folklore is already secured by the fact that he scored the 1-0 winner over Sweden in 1966 — the last time Finland beat their dearest enemy at full level.

As a coach, he steered TPS to the third round of the UEFA Cup in 1987, when they beat Internazionale 1-0 at San Siro. He also coached Brage in Sweden.

"I am a firm supporter of zonal marking," says Lindholm, a PE teacher by profession. "This sort of play suits the Scandinavian mentality. It is aggressive and dynamic and requires a lot of discipline and intelligence. "As I see it, the greatest benefit of the zonal game is that it spares your energy in defence so that it can be used in attack."

HUNGARY

Telek ends on top

ANDRAS TELEK, the 22-year-old libero at Ferencvaros, is Hungary's Player of the Year — or at least the Hungarian Football Association's choice.

Although playing only two internationals in the autumn, against Luxembourg and Israel, he has been a crucial factor in his club's pre-eminent position, being an ever-present last season and in the first half of this one.

Telek (right), born in Budapest on December 10, 1970, is of slight build but at ease with the ball, light with almost a dancer's movement, and quick as well as selective in passing.

He came to love football very early, playing pick-up matches in the suburban square and in teams for school championships, and joined Ferencvaros when 11. His debut in the First Division was as recently as 1990.

Telek, indeed, had an eventful 1992. In March he was chosen by Imre Jenei, in his first match as national team manager, for his debut in a 2-1 win over Austria in Budapest. He played in all of the remaining four matches of a spring season which ended, with his club being crowned champions.

He is grateful to his present manager, Tibor Nyilasi, for the advances made in such a short time — the well-heeled Saudi Arabians have shown interest in him — and pays tribute to another Fradi clubman of renown, Lajos Szucs, former international and coach.

Away from football Telek remains a modest young man for whom the world of the theatre is always closer than the noisy atmosphere of a capital city.

Ferencvaros, unlike half-time champions Vac, reached the quarter-finals of the Hungarian Cup before the mid-winter break. Surprises abounded and the biggest concerned Ujpest, Cup-winners last May. They were eliminated at the last-16 stage and had four players — Zsolt Fuzesi, Zoltan Miklya, Zoltan Aczel and Gyorgy Katona — sent off in a match that MTK managed to win only 1-0.

Ujpest, who enlisted Ferenc Bene as manager in the summer on a one-year contract, beat Ferencvaros 3-1 in the Super Cup in August but are third from bottom in the table, only two points ahead of basement team Nyiregyhaza.

The club's directors ended the year with a sting for four players: free transfers were handed out to the experienced Janos Zsinka and Ferenc Lovasz as well as to goalkeeper Attila Grof and Under-21 international forward Tamas Tiefenbach.

Other big-shots eliminated from the Cup included Vac (by promoted Bekescsaba), Videoton (BVSC-Novep, the capital's Cinderella club), Raba ETO (by Ferencvaros), all at the last-16 stage, and, earlier, Nyiregyhaza, Siofok and Veszprem, to small-time Rakamaz, Sabaria-Tipo and Sopron.

Sarand, from what is not much more than a village a few miles south of Debrecen, have beaten two Second Division teams and face MTK in the two-leg quarter-finals on February 24 and March 3. The other ties: Kispest-Honved v Haladas, BVSC v Bekescsaba, Pecsi Munkas v Ferencvaros.

BRIAN **O'SULLIVAN**

Meszoly returns

KALMAN MESZOLY, arguably the most successful manager of the national team since the 1986 World Cup collapse, is home . . . again!

This larger-than-life personality, who also managed Turkey as well as Hungary twice, had a year away in Saudi Arabia and now reckons he is back for good.

Vasas, his former club as player and manager, are thrilled that he is returning there for six months, to be reunited with son Geza, and that his services will be free.

This move creates a new possibility for the fifth-placed team who, under another manager in Dr Ference Genzwein, showed surprising stability and consistency of selection in the autumn.

If there were smiles at Meszoly's homecoming, the year ended in tears, when he was present for the funeral of much-liked journalist, one-time player and coach Gyula Nemeth, who died aged 69. His final article had words worth heeding for football-lovers everywhere: Ne csak nezzuk a tevet! . . . Don't watch only the television.

CROATIA

Mutiny in Zagreb

HASK-GRADJANSKI, formerly Dinamo, were dominant in the first half of the Croatian championship . . . but then trouble broke out, with some unprecedented events taking place at the Maksimir stadium in Zagreb.

The players, disenchanted with their directors, organised a mutiny

BULGARIA

Penev gives Penev a lift

THE international year ended as it had begun, with a 2-0 win.

The first was a defeat of Switzerland in a friendly in front of a tiny crowd in Berne. Then, as nearly eight months later against Israel, the Bulgarians had Sirakov to thank for the first goal.

When Penev provided the second seven minutes from time in Tel Aviv the points were in the bag, giving the "other Penev", the manager, and his team second place in Group Six and a reasonable chance of reaching the World Cup finals.

A win over Austria in the Prater would virtually eliminate the home team and put pressure on the Swedes, but Bulgaria still have some work to do.

Admittedly six of the eight games played were away but the team could be the lowest in the European rankings to qualify for 1994, and they find scoring a problem against top opposition.

The decisive qualifier could be the last, in Paris in November.

As ever Stoichkov will be the key man, and he is seldom out of the news.

He was greatly disappointed at not being nominated European Footballer of the Year after Barca's triumph at Wembley in the Champions' Cup, but second place behind Van Basten was some consolation.

He was the only Slav footballer in the first 20, and was voted Bulgarian Player of the Year by 60 out of 69 journalists polled by the magazine *Start*.

Stoichkov (above) also won the ultimate home accolade, *Sport* magazine's Sportsman of the Year, previously awarded to only one footballer — the late, great "Gundi" Asparuchkov in 1958 — and was third in a Bulgarian of the Year poll.

"Autumn champions" Levski want to hang on to their leadership.

Only two European places will be available in 1993-94, based on league form, poor European performances having resulted in a Bulgarian slide down the UEFA coefficient chart.

The only other route to top international competition will be via the Cup.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

POLAND

A long wait for action

ALMOST an international a month was played in 1992, including the World Cup qualifying ties with Turkey and Holland.

A somewhat fortunate win over Sepp Piontek's Turks and a convincing draw in Rotterdam give rise to some Polish optimism in Group Two, but the team will not be in action again until San Marino's visit in late April.

By then manager Strejlau will have seen all the opposition again, at least once, and will be better able to assess how many points might be needed.

In the last matches of the old year he experimented heavily. Both games in Latin America were lost without a goal scored, but the expatriates were missing. No further proof was required to underline their importance.

Scoring remains the problem. Four of the 13 in last year's internationals came in the May friendly against the Austrians.

Sound defence meant five wins, two of the three defeats being in Buenos Aires and Montevideo with virtually the second squad.

which included the occupation of the club's trophy room for several days and nights.

The team — and supporters — were perturbed by the fact that money received from the sales of Zvonimir Boban and Davor Suker (right) to wealthy Italian and Spanish buyers was unaccounted for, and there were allegations that coach Misoslav Blazevic had been threatened by a director.

The scandal culminated with an open letter to President Tudjman.

Blazevic, who claims that he is owed over £120,00 by the club, got into a political row, exchanging verbal blows with a state TV boss who is an associate of President Tudjman.

Blazevic then resigned but was persuaded to stay.

Zelko Soic, a player alleged to owe

his place in the Hask-Gradjanski side to his father's presence on the board, decided to ask for a transfer. Hajduk Split reacted swiftly and signed him on a four-year contract.

Suker, now with Sevilla, was voted Croatia's Footballer of the Year.

MLADEN **BILIC**

CZECH REPUBLIC

Slovan slip lets in Sparta

THE ten Czech and Moravian sides in the "All Czecho-Slovak" League, as it used to be called, will continue to the bitter end of the current season.

The first half culminated in Sparta nipping in to become "Winter King" after Slovan had led for most of the autumn.

On the penultimate day of the first half of the last championship in its present form, Slovan had to visit the Letna, where a rather lethargic Sparta gradually awoke to the importance of a somewhat emotional match.

Chovanec's trusty left foot placed the ball on Siegl's head, and he scored the first. Siegl (above) got a second and Ukrainian Dvirnik a third, to put Sparta on top.

They will stay there at least until the resumption in the late spring, a point ahead of Slovan and their fellow Slovaks, Dunajska Streda, two in front of Slavia, and three clear of Sigma.

At the bottom Dukla suffered a humiliating 7-2 defeat to Ceske Budejovice, another team in trouble.

Only the reorganisation looks likely to save both clubs from Second Division football.

BOB **VAUGHAN**

TABLES

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	15	12	2	1	44	16	26
CSKA	15	8	7	3	29	12	20
Lok. Plovdiv	15	8	3	7	31	13	19
Lok. Sofia	15	6	7	2	29	20	19
Etar	15	7	5	3	15	10	19
Botev	15	6	5	4	22	18	17
Chernomorets	15	5	5	5	17	16	15
Lok. GO	15	4	7	4	16	18	15
Spartak Varna	15	5	4	6	18	25	14
Beroe	15	4	5	6	16	20	13
Pirin	15	4	5	6	13	20	13
Dobrudzha	15	5	2	8	19	29	12
Slavia	15	7	3	8	19	29	11
Yantra	15	3	7	8	12	30	10
Sliven	15	7	1	10	15	24	9
Khaskovo	15	3	2	10	16	31	8

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	15	9	4	2	28	13	22
Besa	15	8	5	2	21	9	21
Dinamo	15	8	4	3	21	17	20
Vllaznia	15	8	3	4	23	11	19
Teuta	15	7	3	5	16	13	17
Albpetrol	15	6	5	4	21	20	17
Elbasani	15	5	5	5	16	14	15
Apolonia	15	4	6	5	24	26	14
Laci	15	5	4	6	10	14	14
Tirana	15	4	5	6	15	14	13
Sopoti	15	5	3	7	20	23	13
Lushnja	15	4	4	7	12	19	12
Tomori	15	5	2	9	16	28	12
Kastrioti	15	3	5	7	13	17	11
Pogradeci	15	4	3	8	14	20	11
Flamurtari	15	2	5	8	10	22	9

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vac FC	15	11	1	3	27	13	23
Ferencvaros	15	10	2	3	23	11	22
Kispest-Honved	15	9	3	3	24	15	21
Vasas	15	6	6	3	19	15	18
Videoton	14	7	3	4	24	17	17
Bekescsaba	15	5	6	4	20	18	16
MTK	15	5	5	5	25	19	15
Diosgyor	15	5	5	5	18	21	15
Csepel	15	5	4	6	17	18	14
BVSC-Novep	15	5	3	7	14	17	13
Pecs MSC	15	5	2	8	16	20	12
Siofok	15	5	2	8	15	21	12
Gyor Raba ETO	15	3	6	6	13	19	12
Ujpest TE	14	2	7	5	16	20	11
Veszprem	15	3	3	9	15	30	9
Nyiregyhaza	15	2	4	9	9	21	8

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	16	14	1	1	46	9	29
Dinamo	16	12	3	1	41	9	27
Univ. Craiova	16	8	3	5	28	21	19
Gloria Bistrita	16	8	3	5	21	14	19
Univ. Cluj	16	9	1	6	17	16	19
Rapid Bucharest	16	7	4	5	22	16	18
Sportul Student.	16	7	4	5	25	22	18
Otelul Galati	16	7	4	5	19	17	18
Elect. Craiova	16	7	3	6	13	13	17
FC Inter Sibiu	16	6	3	7	19	23	15
Pol. Timisoara	16	4	6	6	15	26	14
FC Ploiesti	16	6	1	9	24	23	13
Dacia Un. Braila	16	4	4	8	14	20	12
Farul Constanta	16	4	3	9	20	33	11
Progresul	16	3	5	8	16	29	11
Selenica Bacau	16	4	3	9	9	25	11
FC Brasov	16	4	2	10	11	22	10
CSM Resita	16	2	3	11	14	36	7

ROMANIA

Stan strikes

STEAUA'S 3-0 defeat of Rapid in the Bucharest derby established the former European champions at the top of the table.

Manager Jordanescu's decision to blood the 19-year-old Filipescu was vindicated when he scored after 82 minutes and was involved in the penalty award which enabled Ilie Stan to notch his second, Steaua's third.

Stan (left) scored 15 goals put him top of the Division "A" scorers.

Dinamo are in second place, but "U" Craiova and Gloria Bistrita trail by eight points and have little chance of catching the Old Firm.

ALBANIA

Five points cover top six

ONLY five points separated the top six clubs at the end of the first stage in the Albanian season.

Partizani Tirani — pictured above — led with 22 points from their 15 games, with Besa on 21, Dinamo on 20, Vlaznia on 19, and Teuta and Albpetrol on 17.

Dinamo look to have a slight edge and are the tip for the title. Indrit Fortuzi, only 19, is their top player, and perhaps the best in the country at present.

Majaci of Apolonia is the top scorer, with 15 of his club's 24 goals. Coclli (10) and Dosti (9) contributed greatly to Partizani's 28 goals, the highest total among the 16 clubs.

The political turmoil in the country led to a mass defection among Vllaznia players. Ten of them, plus coach Astrit Hafizi, sought asylum in France after going to Corsica to play a friendly match.

Albania is continually being helped with humanitarian aid from many European countries, and a group of supporters have created an association, calling on individuals and associations to help Albanian soccer financially and materially.

Contact: Gezim Nushi, Rruga Asim Zeneli N1, Tirana, Albania.

GEZIM **NUSHI**

ARMENIA

Two share first title

THE first championship staged in the new republic of Armenia ended without a clear winner.

Shirak from Gyumri and Khomentmen from Yerevan both took 37 points from the final 12-club tournament, and were declared joint champions by the Armenian Football Federation, who ruled that there was no stadium suitable for a deciding match.

This of course poses problems for the future.

If UEFA grant only one place to Armenia for next season's competitions, Shirak and Khomentmen will have to play a decider somewhere, probably in June.

If there is a UEFA Cup place as well as one in the Champions' Cup, the clubs will draw lots to see which one will go into which competition.

Banants finished third in the table and Ararat Yerevan, traditionally the leading club, only fourth.

Ararat were top scorers with 78 goals in 22 games, winning four matches by double-figure scores.

Five Ararat players figured in the team for Armenia's first independent international match — a goalless draw against Moldova.

Team manager Eduard Markarov used only home-based players for the game, ignoring some leading performers who have gone to other clubs in the old Soviet Union.

Now a coach . . . Khoren Oganesian.

Markarov was a clear winner in a poll to find the best Armenian player of all time. A panel comprising officials, journalists and supporters awarded him 715 points in recognition of his outstanding career with Ararat and the Soviet national team.

Khoren Oganesian, who played in the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain and now coaches Khomentmen, was second in the poll with 622 points.

● **Victor Onopko** of Moscow Spartak has been voted Player of the Year in Russia, followed by clubmates Igor Lediakhov and Dimitri Radchenko.

VLADIMIR **KALINKOVICH**

BOB VAUGHAN looks at Eastern

The Four Wise Men

MESSRS Dinu, Macala, Penev and Strejlau are not immigrants from Europe but they are prospecting for gold in the United States.

They all hope to lead their national teams to the World Cup finals in the US in 1994.

Czecho-Slovakia's Milan Macala and Romania's Cornel Dinu are in direct opposition in Group 4.

Andrzej Strejlau's Poland are in Group 2, with England, and Dimitar Penev's Bulgaria are in Group 6.

These four men, from the middle reaches of the "Second Division" of European international football who regularly struggle for qualification for the World Cup and European Championship finals, were all born in the 1940s.

Macala began coaching very young, having spent his playing career in Olomouc without making much impact. He coached Slavia and Banik before becoming national manager in July 1990, in succession to Jozef Venglos.

Failure to take Czecho-Slovakia to Sweden '92 did not cost him his post, but with the reorganisation of soccer in his country on the horizon, a second non-qualification probably would put him back in club football or send him abroad.

He has the difficult task of welding together a team who, even if reaching the US, have no future because of political divisions.

A couple of bad results this spring could mean that his foreign-based professionals, the backbone of the best side the Czechs and Slovaks can field, may prove difficult to motivate.

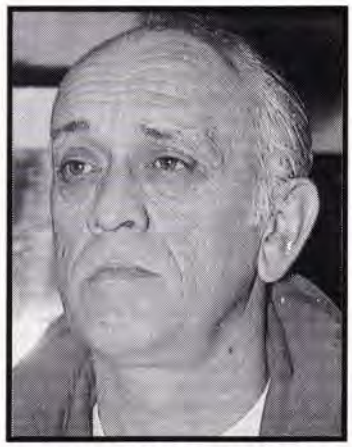
Macala is assisted by a Slovak, Milan Lesicky, formerly coach at Nitra. They have been in charge together 25 times in 30 months, and presumably will continue for the duration of the qualifying tournament, which Czecho-Slovakia will conclude in mid-November with a visit to Brussels.

This will be the final appearance of the "Associated Czech and Slovak" representation. Maximum home points in the remaining ties with Wales, Romania and Cyprus and at least three points from visits to Larnaca and Torshavn might mean a draw would suffice in Brussels.

Possibly an even more difficult task confronts Strejlau, the Polish chief.

Perhaps England are due a fall in Poland after their good fortune in

Dinu seems to have the best opportunity



ANDRZEJ STREJLAU

POLAND national coach from summer 1989.

Born: February 19, 1940, in Warsaw.

Played for: Legia Warsaw.

Coached at: Fram Reykjavik, Larissa, Zaglebie Sosnowiec, Legia Warsaw, Poland Under-23 (1972), assistant to national coach (1973-74).

MILAN MACALA

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA national coach from summer 1990.

Born: July 1, 1943, in Olomouc.

Played for: Sigma ZTS, Olomouc.

Coached at: Slavia Prague and Banik Ostrava.

Lucky . . . England escaped with a 1-1 draw in Poznan in 1991.

recent seasons, in Chorzow and Poznan, and this is Strejlau's best chance, rather than at Wembley, where the last two performances bordered on the disastrous.

So far Poland have overcome the Turks with considerable luck, and gained a vital point in Holland, but they must await late April for the home tie with San Marino.

As an experienced tactical planner Strejlau will not underestimate the task awaiting the Klub Polska. He was one of Kazimierz Gorski's staff 18 years ago and knows the value of preparation, but his candidates are spread across Europe and available only for certain competitive matches, which makes experimentation difficult.

Funds are short for spying missions and organisation needs tightening up if the Poles are going to nip in front of England, Norway or Holland. Strejlau must hope for some help from the other challengers.

Fellow Slav Dimitar Penev shares many of Macala's and Strejlau's problems in keeping tabs on a far-flung squad, in having to husband financial resources, and in improving the organisation of his team. Bulgarian clubs' form in European competition has again been poor and the national league continues to be depleted by the loss of players to Western Europe.

Penev and Dinu, however, have one advantage over their Polish and Czech colleagues. Both had long international careers. Penev won 90 caps for Bulgaria, including three World Cups, and Dinu made 75 full appearances for Romania.

Dinu also spent time — he is a lawyer by profession — in sports administration before returning to the game. Not many coaches give up the role of Secretary of State for Sport to train a national team.

Nevertheless he is not without similar difficulties to those of other national coaches in Eastern and Central Europe, with a good proportion of his best players attached to Western clubs.

He also has to overcome the public perception of him as a civil servant who has trained only lesser clubs and used his position to obtain the top football job.

Qualifying for the US will put all that right and perhaps Dinu's chances are the best of the four.

CORNEL DINU

ROMANIA national coach from autumn 1992.

Born: February 21, 1949, in Tirgoviste.

Played for: Metalul Tirgoviste and Dinamo Bucharest.

Coached at: Tirgu Mures, Olt and Oltelul Galati.

DIMITAR PENEV

BULGARIA national coach from summer 1990.

Born: July 12, 1945, in Milovane.

Played for: Lok Sofia, CSKA Sofia.

Coached at: CSKA, Kuwait, CSKA.

BOSNIA

Marooned Sarajevo battle to survive

COACH Fuad Murzurovic and his club Sarajevo, twice Yugoslav champions, are in the market for invitational matches. The only problem is that they cannot leave the city to play in them.

Sarajevo has been under siege since Serb forces attacked the city in April. Only a handful of people have been able to get out to territory still held by the newly-independent government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Now the fierce winter conditions, with heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures, are an additional problem.

Sarajevo, one of the city's two First Division teams, were in Belgrade for a game against Red Star when the war broke out. And 12 players — all Serbs — chose not to return.

Muzurovic, a Muslim, went home with the remaining players, whose names read like a recipe for the ethnic mixture that made Sarajevo the melting pot of the former Yugoslavia.

"Our team is made up of Muslims, Croats and Serbs," said Sarajevo's president, Muhammed Granov.

"We called up nine players from our junior team to get back up to our full number."

The team's manager, Svetozar Vujovic, is a Serb, and there are several Croats on the board.

The Yugoslav soccer league fell apart during the 1991 season after war broke out between Croats and Serbs in Croatia.

Sarajevo were then in fourth place, with a chance of qualifying for the UEFA Cup.

Psychiatrist Radovan Karadzic, leader of the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Bosnia, served as the team's psychologist for eight years until 1989, when he became a member of the Bosnian parliament.

"He wasn't very good as a psychologist," said Muzurovic. "The players fell asleep whenever he gave pep talks."

Sarajevo continue to train and play whenever possible, although most of the players have been conscripted into the Bosnian army.

The board would like an invitation to play a benefit match abroad, where they could raise money for their suffering city, but obtaining permission to leave is difficult.

Under current United Nations High Commission for Refugees regulations, only journalists, official delegations, and seriously ill or wounded people can get out of the city on the relief flights.

FC Zeljeznicar, the city's other team, have not been able to keep up with their schedule. Their stadium are in the Grbavic neighbourhood, which is held by Serb forces.

MLADEN **BILIC**

AZERBAIJAN

Baku best of the bunch

THE first championship of the newly-independent Azerbaijan was, as expected, won by Neftchi Baku, for many years the republic's representative in the Soviet Supreme League.

Despite the loss of several talented players to other clubs, Neftchi proved too strong for the opposition in the 12-team play-off.

Under experienced manager Akhmed Aleskerov, Neftchi finished five points ahead of Khazar from Sumgait. Abdullaev scored 34 of his team's 104 goals, in 36 matches, but Khazar's Aliev netted 39 of his side's 100, and Allakhverdiev of fifth-placed Kyapaz Gyandzha scored 39 out of 98.

Manager Ruslan Abdullaev guided Turan Tauz to an unexpected third place.

The second national championship begins this month, and will end in July. Then the third championship will start in August, and from then on the seasons will run from autumn to spring.

● Azerbaijan played their first international match, losing 6-3 to Georgia in Gurdzhaani.

TABLES

ARMENIA — Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shirak Gyumri	22	17	3	2	68	14	37
Khomentmen Erevan	22	17	3	2	75	31	37
Banants Kotaiski	22	17	2	3	77	26	36
Ararat Erevan	22	15	4	3	78	15	34
Van Erevan	22	11	1	10	48	53	23
Syunik Kapan	22	8	3	11	42	47	19
Kotaik Abovyan	22	7	3	12	32	45	17
Nairi Erevan	22	6	5	11	26	52	17
Khomentmen-SKIF	22	6	4	12	39	42	16
Zvartnots Echmiadzin	22	3	5	14	30	61	11
Kanaz Erevan	22	3	3	16	29	62	9
Kilikiya Erevan	22	3	2	17	21	107	8

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	15	9	4	2	28	13	22
Besa	15	8	5	2	21	9	21
Dinamo	15	8	4	3	21	17	20
Vllaznia	15	8	3	4	23	11	19
Teuta	15	7	3	5	16	13	17
Albpetrol	15	6	5	4	21	20	17
Elbasani	15	5	5	5	16	14	15
Apolonia	15	4	6	5	24	16	14
Laci	15	5	4	6	10	14	14
Tirana	15	4	5	6	15	14	13
Sopoti	15	5	3	7	20	23	13
Lushnja	15	4	4	7	12	19	12
Tomori	15	5	2	8	16	28	12
Kastrioti	15	3	5	7	13	17	11
Pogradeci	15	4	3	8	14	20	11
Flamurtari	15	2	5	8	10	22	9

AZERBAIJAN — Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neftchi Baku	36	30	2	4	104	23	62
Khazar Sumgait	36	27	3	6	100	24	57
Turan Tauz	36	26	4	6	62	24	56
Karabakh Agdam	36	24	7	5	76	26	55
Kyapaz Gyandzha	36	23	8	5	98	29	54
Inshaatchi Baku	36	21	6	9	52	28	48
Kyur Mingechaur	36	19	3	14	50	39	41
Inshaatchi Sabirabad	36	14	6	16	36	42	34
Taraggi Baku	36	13	6	17	39	49	32
Kyumryuk Kakhi	36	12	7	17	57	82	31
Umud Djalilabad	36	12	5	19	48	78	29
Shakhdag Kusary	36	11	7	18	34	54	29

Top dog . . . Walter Smith's Rangers are the only British club left in European competition.

Walter Smith in conve

High Society

Rangers revel in their role at the top of the British pyramid

WALTER SMITH is on top of the heap when it comes to managers in Britain: he is the only one with a team still playing in this season's European competitions.

Smith has become a well-known figure since succeeding Graeme Souness as manager of Rangers in 1991. He has helped to give the team and the entire club a European mentality.

In this interview, he answers questions on the past and the future for this great club.

What was your start in life and in soccer?

I come from a small village outside Glasgow. My family, and I am very proud in saying this is a working-class family. As a boy I played football in the streets like everybody else. There were no facilities as we know them nowadays, but even so football was the passion of those days. Then, on Saturdays, it was the only recreation. We were all Rangers supporters. I started going to Ibrox at a very early age.

Did you have a job?

You could always have a job if you wanted, in Glasgow. Industry was working at full speed. I went to work as an apprentice at a power station and became an electrician. But football was in my blood and at 21 I was a full-time player with Dundee United. Later I became coach there, then assistant-manager for six years.

And here you are now, managing Rangers, among the greatest in Europe . . .

It is quite a long story. Things turned up in a surprising way. In a sense I should still be at Dundee United. But nothing is static in football. I could see changes on the horizon. When I was working in Mexico with the national team, as an assistant to Alex Ferguson, I met Graeme Souness, who was then playing at Sampdoria. He later became manager at Ibrox and Graeme asked me to become his assistant. I knew that he was going to transform the club. How could I miss an opportunity like that? He was young, but was also full of experience.

What changes did you make?

There were many changes in the playing staff. A lot of men left. But the results in those five years speak for themselves. Rangers was transformed. What you see today is the result of those five years.

But then Souness left . . .

That was an enormous surprise. But I can tell you this: nothing and nobody could ever have prevented Graeme from taking the Liverpool job. He had achieved glory there, as a player. He had to go for new glories as the Liverpool manager.

What did it feel like, winning the Scottish championship in 1991 after less than a month as manager?

Although Graeme had resigned a few weeks earlier, I'd already been at Rangers five years and it was just a case of carrying on the work Graeme had begun.

He laid down the foundations for a successful Rangers and my aim was just to continue that.

Whatever has happened since, Graeme can take a great deal of pride in everything he did in Scotland. The criticism he received in certain quarters was unfounded. He was the best thing to happen to Rangers in 20 years.

Souness has not achieved anything at Liverpool apart from the FA Cup last season. The old glories have faded away. On the contrary, Rangers are on the path to a great future. Their superiority at Scottish level is overwhelming. Their victory at Leeds made them, in the eyes of many, the No. 1 team in Britain. How did you get where you are now?

We were settling down under Graeme. When he went I tried to mix the best of his methods with the lessons of my own experience. We are not so modern or flamboyant now. We are realists. We play with consistency. This is the real secret, if there is one. Consistency leads to good performances.

That consistency is in danger because it seems that you do not have enough players to provide against injuries.

We are always looking to strengthen our team. On this, our aims are two-fold: we need, of course, to be able to replace injured players without loss of quality, but we also need to have the very best in Scottish football. Two or three years ago we had 12 non-Scottish players. It is my policy, the club's policy, to change this state of affairs.

Where are you going to find new players? How are young players to be formed in the present social conditions?

There are not as many players as there were 20 years ago. In the past, people taught themselves how to paly. I played in the streets and the only thing I knew was football. But now, young people do not play any more. They go for video games, TV, golf, tennis, squash, badminton. And TV is killing football. There is a case, I know, for football to be seen on TV, but with restrictions. Since there are now too many cars in the streets where nobody can play football anyway, it is up to the Football Associations of all countries to unite and promote the game in a way to bring children from their homes and learn to play. But merely promoting the game may not be enough. The question of TV must be addressed sooner rather than later.

Rangers are involved in a number of simultaneous competitions and will almost certainly lose the form that has taken you to the present stage. Other clubs, with rather fewer engagements, may very well get in form and take the title. Can you see that happening?

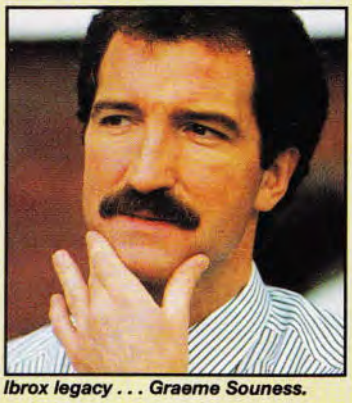
Yes, I can. We are playing too many games. At the time of this interview we have already played around 30 games and those players who are also involved with the Scottish national team have played more. This is too much. The stress that this situation will bring about will have an effect on form. We are, however, preparing ourselves for weaknesses. We hope that we will be able to overcome them. One way or another, everybody can be sure that Rangers will fight to survive and win. As for the other clubs, it is fair to say that Celtic are always the main danger — this without diminishing the likes of Aberdeen and Hearts.

How has the balance changed between British and Continental teams in recent years?

The best European teams are now even tougher to beat because they have added "our" physical discipline to their own superior technique.

Physical condition used to be the British quality. Now the foreigners have it. Teams such as Marseille are also

Top man . . . Ally McCoist is now an automatic choice for Rangers.



Ibrox legacy . . . Graeme Souness.

very good at using pressing tactics. They were excellent for an hour against us at Ibrox. Then we got back for a 2-2 draw, thanks largely to Mark Hateley.

Hateley has been a revelation in the European games this season. Why?

British teams come up against a player of Mark's type on numerous occasions but Europeans don't often encounter it, so they tend to struggle against it.

He is the focal point of so many of our attacks.

Continentals don't like trying to handle players such as Hateley when the ball is in the air — not even Marseille. Right from the start against them, scoring chances were coming off him.

Rangers were outplayed in every department of the game against Marseille, yet could still get two goals in the last 10 minutes. What lessons can be taken from this?

In European games, margins of error are slim. In some circumstances everything can change in 10 minutes. There is always an opportunity. When you are two goals down you can never think that you are beaten. When there was nothing to lose I decided to send in the youngster who has lived under the shadow of Ally McCoist: Gary McSwegen. And it worked. Rangers were not beaten, though the game could well have gone Marseille's way.

Now that you are in the highest circles of European football, how do you view your chances?

It is difficult to compete with clubs like Milan, Marseille, Real Madrid and Barcelona. They are among the greatest in the world and can draw on great financial support. We are not yet at the same level. We do not have the financial resources to bring to Glasgow a man like Van Basten. But on the day of a given match, you always have your chances. If you are not able to take them, that is another matter.

Have you changed in your two years in charge?

I would not say I have changed as a person.

I still stand on the terraces at Dumbarton at Monday night reserve games, for example, while I am on my way home. People now recognise me now more readily because I appear a bit more on TV.

People come up and speak to me, which is something I am not really used to. I was always fairly anonymous.

Frankly, I find the recognition slightly embarrassing.

It's hard to believe that you had never been a manager . . .

I'd had chances to become a manager in my own right before I became assistant at Ibrox, but I didn't think they were right for me.

If I had taken one of them then, who knows? I could have been out of football by now.

Rule change may be too late

Flying South . . . Nigel Spackman could still be playing for Rangers, if he had been allowed to play for Scotland.

CHELSEA'S Nigel Spackman wonders if a rule change regarding the eligibility of Scotland players has come two years too late for him.

Spackman, then of Rangers, was selected by the Scots for a match against the Soviet Union in February 1991.

They claimed he qualified on the grounds that his grandfather was born near Edinburgh, but he had to withdraw within 24 hours, when the Football Asso-ciation at Lanc-aster Gate cited an agreement among the Home Associations that a player not born in the country of selection could only be chosen if one or other parent came from that country.

The SFA have agreed to endo-rse a move by the Irish FA to push the selection criterion back a generation and allow players to adopt the nationality of either grandparent, as in the case among British rugby nations.

Assuming the Scots get the consent of the Home Associations, they could, in theory at least, turn once more to Spackman.

He rejoined Chelsea this season, because Rangers wanted to cut down on their quota of non-nationals.

"If I were playing well enough, I would love to be picked by Scotland," said Spackman, now 32.

"Mind you, I'm two years further down the line from when I had to drop out of the Scotland squad and, if I were still at Rangers, maybe I would be more acceptable to the Scottish public.

"Hopefully, though, I can warrant a look from Andy Roxburgh.

"Who knows, had I been allowed to play for Scotland when they picked me, maybe I would still have been at Rangers, because they would have been able to regard me as a Scot."

Realistically, Scotland's switch of selection policy is more likely to benefit the young-er crop of players, among them Gregor Rioch, teenage son of Bruce Rioch, former Scottish captain and current Bolton manager.

Bruce was born in England of a Scottish father, and went on to play for the Scots.

Rioch junior is in the English First Division with Luton Town, one of his father's old clubs.

Rioch senior said: "It is only right that a player should be allowed to appear for the same country as his father if he has the necessary ability.

"Gregor feels nothing other than Scottish and I was as proud of my 24 Scottish caps as anybody born in Scotland could have been.

"I was a victim of circumstances — my father, who came from Stonehaven, happened to be temporarily based in Aldershot with the Army when I was born."

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

More problems at Highbury

ARSENAL, it seems, just cannot keep out of trouble.

The "club everybody loves to hate" — George Graham's words, not mine — have virtually blown their chances of winning a third title in five years with a wretched run of results.

Arsenal have not won in eight Premier League games, have earned only three points from a possible 24 and the most feared strike force in the Premier League have gone into hibernation, with only two goals in those eight matches, from Ian Wright and midfielder David Hillier.

That run of bad results has coincided with a run of bad behaviour, all too familiar at Highbury.

Wright was banned for three games by the Football Association after being found guilty of misconduct, and manager Graham was fined £500, following two incidents during December's 1-0 defeat at Tottenham.

Wright was caught by TV cameras throwing what looked like a punch at David Howells and will miss two league games and, more worryingly, the FA Cup clash with Leeds.

Closer scrutiny of the video evidence shows that Wright did not actually punch Howells, but he certainly raised a hand to his face — no question and no excuse.

Graham was charged over comments made to match referee Alf Buksh. Graham was unhappy with Mr Buksh's handling of the North London derby and wants him banned from controlling any more Arsenal matches this season.

Strange that, considering that Buksh did not see, or report, the Wright incident. If he had done, Wright, who has been in trouble for misbehaviour before, would have been in it even deeper.

Since Graham took over in 1986 Arsenal have been before the FA more times than any other club. True, Arsenal are a big outfit and the players and manager are under great pressure, but much of that pressure is self-generated by lack of discipline. Wright and Graham have been fined for misbehaviour in the past and surely should know better. Clearly the old adage "once bitten, twice shy" has little meaning at Highbury and, while that remains the case, it will be hard to feel sympathy for Arsenal.

The FA, however, are partly responsible too.

Graham's basic salary is £250,000 a year. Is a fine of £500 really going to deter him from abusing referees?

If the FA were really determined to stamp out this kind of thing, they should have fined Graham much more. Considering that Wimbledon's Vinny Jones was fined £20,000 for endorsing a video, £500 seems a paltry sum and no deterrent.

JOHN **KELLY**

Simply stupid . . . the Wright-Howells incident at Tottenham.

Rovers surprise an open

The good old days are back at Blackburn

Bargain buy . . . Shearer shows the style that prompted a record fee.

FOR YEARS the proud boast of English football was the even balance of quality throughout the four divisions of the Football League.

No single club, said all the experts, could dominate English football the way "lesser countries" were dominated by a couple of clubs — such as Real Madrid and Barcelona in Spain, Milan, Juventus and Inter in Italy, Benfica and Sporting in Portugal.

Then along came Liverpool. In a dictatorship which lasted 28 years they won the League championship on 13 occasions, the FA Cup five times, the League Cup four, plus six European trophies in the Champions' Cup (four) and the UEFA Cup (two).

Now Liverpool have slumped into mediocrity. The field, for the first time in nearly 30 years, is once more wide open. The new Premier League, created this season and awash with television money, is at the mercy of any one of a dozen teams.

Arsenal and Manchester United are obvious candidates. Not so Blackburn Rovers, promoted from the old Second Division of the old Football League at the end of last seasons. Yet Blackburn, fellow Lancastrians hidden from the limelight since long before the Liverpool era, boast one of the greatest of English football traditions.

Founded in 1875, playing in blue-and-white halved shirts redolent of far-off days, they were founder members of the original Football League and won the FA Cup on six occasions . . . the last in 1928.

Then came the famine. Blackburn faded from the limelight. Occasionally they scrambled back up. Never for long. And their losing battles with a string of promotion rivals excited then exasperated the fans.

Finally, last season, supported by the personal fortune of Jack Walker — a

Money man . . . Walker's wealth is behind the Rovers' return.

GEORGE GRAHAM'S TROUBLED ARSENAL REIGN

May 1988: Graham fined £250 by FA after remarks made to a referee.

September 1988: Paul Davis fined £3,000 and suspended for nine games after TV cameras captured him breaking Glenn Cockerill's jaw with a punch in a match at Highbury against Southampton.

November 1989: Arsenal fined £20,000 after FA brought disrepute charges following pitch brawl against Norwich.

November 1989: Paul Merson and Steve Bould fined two weeks' wages by club for misbehaviour at supporters' club function.

December 1989: Seven players fined £1,000 each by club for surrounding officials after 2-1 defeat at Aston Villa.

May 1990: Merson, Nigel Winterburn, Kevin Richardson and Perry Groves sent home from tour of Singapore for breach of club discipline.

October 1990: Arsenal fined £50,000 by FA and deducted two points after "the battle of Old Trafford" when 21 Arsenal and Manchester United players were involved in mass brawl.

December 1990: Club captain Tony Adams jailed for four months for reckless driving.

January 1992: Ian Wright fined £1,500 for spitting incident after game at Oldham. Merson fined £500 for abusive gesture during same match.

March 1992: West Ham fans claim that Wright used abusive language against them. No action taken.

September 1992: Wright reported to police by Wimbledon fans for allegedly making V-sign at them and captured on TV aiming a punch at Wimbledon defender Scott Fitzgerald. No action taken on either count.

January 1993: Wright banned for three games after being found guilty of throwing punch at Tottenham's David Howells during game against Tottenham. Graham also charged and fined £500 for remarks made to match referee Alf Buksh.

Now Ferguson must fancy his chances

Red roar . . . United players celebrate another Cantona goal.

NOBODY at Old Trafford will admit it, but Manchester United must fancy their chances of winning the Premier League and ending the long wait for their eighth title.

United have not won the league since 1966-67 — far too long for a club of this size and with such huge support.

Thirteen of United's current first-team squad had not been born when George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton led the Red Devils to that last title. But young players such as Ryan Giggs, Lee Sharpe, Darren Ferguson and Andrei Kanchelskis look like ending that long, frustrating gap.

Manchester United moved to the top of the table with a 4-1 defeat of Tottenham, taking their goals to 12 in their last three league matches.

In early November Alex Ferguson's side were 10th but they have worked their way up with an unbeaten run of eight league matches, taking 20 out of a possible 24 points.

Eric Cantona arrived at Leeds last February and gave the Yorkshire club the extra push needed in the closing straight to overhaul Manchester United and clinch the title. His Gallic swagger and nonchalant skills lifted the players and the fans and he was undoubtedly a big factor in the club's success.

Now Cantona has brought to Old Trafford the same endearing qualities plus goals — one in each of his last four games.

He has added a new dimension to a United side running into devastating form at just the right time and they are looking the most likely of the crop of clubs still in with a chance of the title.

Ferguson remains cautious, saying: "There's a long way to go — don't hold your breath!"

He pointed to Aston Villa's 2-1 win at Liverpool and said: "That makes them as big a favourite as us."

But even Ferguson must realise that this could be his best chance. Last season United were a very good side, who lost their way in the last month. Now they are even better and, if they have learned from their mistakes last time, will surely triumph.

The title could still go to any one of half a dozen sides. Aston Villa's league record this season is almost identical

CONTINUED OVER

field

fan who is one of Britain's richest men — Rovers turned the corner on ambition. Walker's money attracted Kenny Dalglish out of the retirement in which he had sought to escape the pressures of running Liverpool. Another £12 million has bought some of the finest talent available.

It has not all been easy. Blackburn led the Second Division, as it was, for much of last season. Then, winning only two of their last ten games, they collapsed from certainties to a place in the play-offs.

Blackburn had reached that stage in three out of the four previous seasons but each time had finished up a loser, twice in the semi-finals and once in the final. Last season was different. Blackburn overcame Derby in the semi-final and then beat Leicester at Wembley to earn their place in the Premier League.

To the relief of Walker, Dalglish, star signings such as Gordon Cowans and Roy Wegerle as well as the long-suffering fans, all the financial and physical efforts of the season had been rewarded.

Whatever the problems of their promotion campaign,

Bright beginning . . . Blackburn's first goal in the 1928 Cup Final, against Huddersfield, was scored by Jack Roscamp in the first minute, and remains one of the fastest ever at Wembley.

Blackburn took the Premier League by storm — their high-speed rush into the leadership of the nation's clubs climaxed by a 7-1 demolition of a Norwich City team who were heading the table at the time. Appropriately, victory arrived just one week short of Dalglish's celebrating the anniversary of his appointment as manager.

By then he had spent even more, securing the prize of England centre-forward Alan Shearer from Southampton for a domestic record £3.3 million in the teeth of competition from Manchester United.

Norwich manager Mike Walker sums up the praise piled upon Shearer this season, saying: "He used to do bits and pieces around the penalty box. Now he gives opposing teams problems in every direction."

Shearer scored 15 goals in his first 13 League appearances this season, but his overall play was just as impressive. At 22, his maturity has been staggering. He could not have come on to the scene at a better time for England manager Graham Taylor, who had stared into the abyss after his team's depressing displays and early elimination at the finals of the European Championship.

Shearer had scored on his England debut against France last spring, then been inexplicably ignored even though the need to find a successor to Gary Lineker was a matter of paramount importance.

Shearer has the old Jimmy Greaves habit of marking his debuts with a goal — as he did on his starting appearances for Southampton (a hat-trick against Arsenal), England Under-21, the full international side and for Blackburn, in both the Premier League and the League Cup.

"People say I look stronger," says Shearer. "But I'm still the same player and the same person as I was last year."

Not quite the same — he has had surgery on a knee injury keeping him out for a month.

Even so, the record fee now looks a bargain. As "banker" Walker says: "It's wrong to go on about the money. Look what we got: a wonderful player, brilliant enough to compare with anyone who has been here before."

Gordon Taylor, once one of the steadiest wingers in the League and now chief executive of the players' union, says: "Shearer is a perfect leader of the line. He uses the wings, he creates space for other people, he gets involved in the build-up and he puts the ball in the net. He has the strength of Nat Lofthouse and the creativity of a Trevor Francis."

Many outstanding players temper their talent with fear. But Shearer is courageous as well as talented. Spain's defenders kicked him all round Santander when England lost 1-0 in a start-of-season friendly, but he kept going.

He says: "I take it as a compliment that people are going out to try to stop me. It's good for my confidence."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s Blackburn had two players who for years were pillars of the England team. One was right-half Ronnie Clayton, the other was outside-right Bryan Douglas. They led Blackburn to the 1960 FA Cup Final — which they lost to Wolverhampton Wanderers after David Whelan had broken a leg — and collected 71 England caps between them.

Shearer could earn more than that on his own. If he does, Blackburn, at long, long, last, will be counting success in terms of silverware.

If, of course, he stays.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

Top target . . . Ferdinand (left) in action against Irwin of Manchester United.

CONTINUED

to United's. Both have won 11 games, drawn eight and lost four of their 23 and scored 34 goals, but United have conceded only 18 to Villa's 25.

Dean Saunders, who left Liverpool in September, returned to Anfield and scored the winner. Manager Ron Atkinson said: "I can't think of a time when I've been a goal down at Anfield and come back and won."

Norwich, level on points, missed the chance to regain sole possession of the top spot with a 1-0 defeat at erratic Sheffield Wednesday.

Mike Walker's side have earned only two points from their last five games and failed to score in any of them.

Mark Robins, the defenders' scourge in August and September, was injured at Hillsborough, and without his goals City have struggled.

Blackburn's form has been indifferent of late, with defeats at Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Ipswich. Now Alan Shearer is out for a month and Kenny Dalglish's side now look vulnerable.

Fifth-place Ipswich lost the only unbeaten home record in the Premier League when they fell to their first defeat in 14 matches — and only their third in 28 this season — 2-1 to Oldham, who notched their first away league win.

Chelsea too have run into trouble, taking only three points from four games — the last a shock 4-2 home defeat by Manchester City — going out of the Coca-Cola Cup at Crystal Palace and the FA Cup at Middlesbrough.

Liverpool's decline is even more alarming. The defeat by Villa was typical as Graeme Souness was forced to field a make-shift defence with Piechnik and Bjornebye in the middle — one Danish, one Norwegian, both recently signed and far from settled.

Worse was to follow. Home defeat by Second Division Bolton in an FA Cup replay left the club without a trophy to aim at, even with four months of the season remaining.

QPR moved up to sixth place with a win at Middlesbrough. Les Ferdinand scored the only goal — his first away this season — and recently has been the subject of huge speculation about his future.

Newcastle, currently 14 points clear at the top of the First Division, have tabled a bid of £3.8 million for him.

No heroics from the non-league sides left in the FA Cup. Marlow went down 5-1 to Tottenham, Yeovil 3-1 to Arsenal and Marine 3-1 to Crewe. If Marine, a non-league side from Liverpool, had won, their reward would have been a home tie with Blackburn.

Quite an incentive for Roly Howard, manager and part-time window cleaner, whose customers include . . . Kenny Dalglish!

JOHN **KELLY**

No time for history

The future is what matters to Big Ron

ASTON VILLA are answering the call of Europe. They are among a cluster of clubs jostling to create soccer history by becoming the first champions of the Premier League.

The prize for success is more than domestic glory — it is the chance to take the stage in Europe, a spotlight that would be welcomed by one of England's greatest soccer extroverts.

Ron Atkinson was born in Liverpool in 1939, and always wanted a career in soccer. The Midlands proved to be his growing-up territory and as a lad he often went to see Villa.

As a player he did not gain international stardom but they thought a lot of him at Oxford, where he was in at the start of the club's League debut in 1962.

He even scored in Oxford's record League success, a 7-0 win over Barrow in December 1964. But it is Atkinson the manager who is the weaver of dreams, the man who delights his fans and infuriates the opposition with his own brand of self-confidence.

He has known defeat and demotion, but he also has savoured victory, cups, promotion and glory. His management history is entwined with Cambridge, West Brom, Manchester United, Atletico Madrid, Sheffield Wednesday and now Villa. But Big Ron has little time for history.

"I've had my dreams come true and I can look back with satisfaction, but life is not about looking back," he says.

"You have to look forward, to the next game, the next challenge. That is what makes life exciting and keeps you on your toes.

"Here at Villa we are always seeking to improve. Unless you are winning every single game you can never be complacent and assume everything is going according to plan. As an example, our League season has been going quite well and then we had the disappointment of going out of the League Cup at Ipswich. You realise that the job is never done.

"As a club Villa need very little improvement. It is a big club with a super stadium. We have excellent training facilities and the staff in every department has been very well selected.

"I like to work in blocks of ten points. When the season starts I aim to get our first ten points — then I plan for the next ten and so on. It encourages you to work on a sequence of matches rather than just the next game and it gives you a better approach.

"I will always be interested in finding or buying better players. No manager can afford not to, and I hope to see Villa in Europe again."

Away from Villa Park, Atkinson has concerns for the game as a whole.

"English football is still suffering from the seasons out of Europe," he says.

"In general our game seems to lack players with individual flair and I believe that makes the difference between success and failure. You can train and plan all you like but

Championship chaser . . . Atkinson is in with a chance of the title.

Wembley winners . . . Atkinson leads Manchester United on to the pitch before the 1983 FA Cup Final against Brighton.

One big day for Bangor

THE Irish League campaign seems sure to be one of the most hotly contested for years, with no single team looking capable of outpacing the rest.

The gruelling series of four matches in eight days — surely too much for part-time players — at the turn of the year failed to sort out a clear leader, and merely tightened the race at the top.

Bangor briefly replaced Crusaders at the head of the table, but their reign lasted only 24 hours — still an historic occasion for the club, who last led the pack in December 1955. A first home League defeat, 3-1 to Distillery, brought the team down with a bump after nine wins in their previous ten games.

One of the leading contenders, Linfield, conceded only four goals in 17 games.

They caused a sensation by signing their first player from a Republic of Ireland club for almost 50 years — Dessie Gorman, 28, from Shelbourne.

Portadown, champions in 1990 and 1991, appear to have the strongest squad. Title-holders Glentoran have slipped badly after losing veteran striker Gary Macartney through injury, and seem unlikely to become serious contenders.

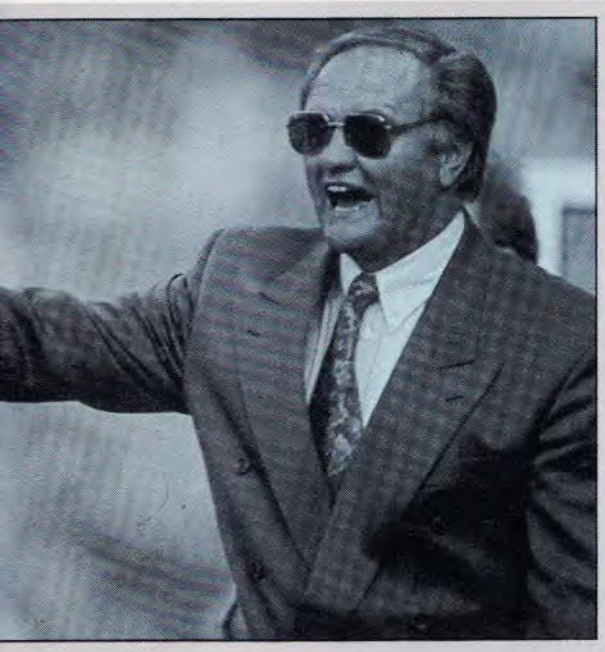
ROY **KITSON**

Bingham to quit

BILLY BINGHAM, manager of the Northern Ireland national team, will retire at the end of the present World Cup campaign.

Since taking charge for the second time in 1980, Bingham has taken a nation of 1.5 million to two World Cup final tournaments, in 1982 and 1986.

His record from 1967 to 1971 and from 1980 to date is: played 110, won 36, drawn 33, lost 41.



very often a flash of individual brilliance wins a game.

"We need more of it in this country. We haven't enough outstanding personalities.

"There is no doubt that we play too many matches, but financially we can't do anything else. The cost of soccer is very high and has to be met by income. That means playing matches.

"It's not just wages, transfer fees and running costs. The amount of money that we are having to spend on ground improvements is huge. It can only be paid for by playing.

"The rule changes don't bother me. I said ten years ago that the backpass should be outlawed and I feel it has served to give us a much better, flowing game with less of the old stop-star."

Big Ron says he is a contented man, and adds: "The worst part about being a manager is losing. I hate it. I never expect to lose and it really disappoints me when we do. Winning is the best part of being a manager — especially when you win a big game. There's nothing like it."

Perhaps the biggest honour is to manage your country, but Atkinson is not so sure.

"If you are at the World Cup and able just to be with your players and concentrate on the tournament, that must be fantastic. But I couldn't stand all the bureaucracy that goes with it.

"Having to spend all that time as an administrator for just a few days of football would bore me to death."

Atkinson ever the optimist, is hopeful of England's chances of reaching the US in 1994.

"I have to believe that we can and will do it. Loyalty keeps me with England."

BERNARD **BALE**

Cris Freddi previews the forthcoming World Cup fixtures

Two for, 53 against

ENGLAND v SAN MARINO

SAN MARINO have played 12 internationals, all since November 1990, losing every one while scoring only twice, the first a penalty.

They have conceded at least four goals in each away game. Pier Luigi Benedettini has kept goal throughout every match, conceding 53 goals, including 10 in Oslo last September. Only Northern Ireland (15 games) and Norway (a remarkable 27) have had to wait longer for their first win.

England usually are ruthless against minnows, especially at home: 9-0 v Luxembourg, 5-0 v Malta, Cyprus and Albania, 5-0 and 8-0 v Turkey.

Blackburn's Alan Shearer will be hoping to be fit and looking to join the list of England strikers who scored hat-tricks against weak teams at Wembley.

Malcolm Macdonald hit five against Cyprus, Gary Lineker twice got three against the Turks, and Luther Blissett did so against Luxembourg, his only goals for England.

Mighty Mac . . . Scotland striker Alan McInally scores against Malta in 1990.

SCOTLAND v MALTA

SCOTLAND have played two friendlies against Malta, both in Valletta, both close-run things.

In the first, a 1-1 draw in 1988, refereed by George Courtney, Graeme Sharp scored with a header in his last international, and Carmel Busuttil equalised on his way to a Maltese record of 16 goals, still ten ahead of the next best.

Both Scotland's goals in the 2-1 win in 1990 were scored by Alan McInally.

The Maltese credit their equaliser, a virtual own goal by Dave McPherson, to Michael Degiorgio, now comfortably their most capped player ever.

John Buttigieg took part in the 1988 match, then moved to England and was a Brentford player by the time he appeared against Scotland again. He's now far and away the most capped Bee of all time.

The two matches against Malta should serve as a warning.

Scotland have recently struggled against minor opposition, beating Cyprus only 3-2 and 2-1, San Marino 2-0, and drawing 0-0 with Luxembourg.

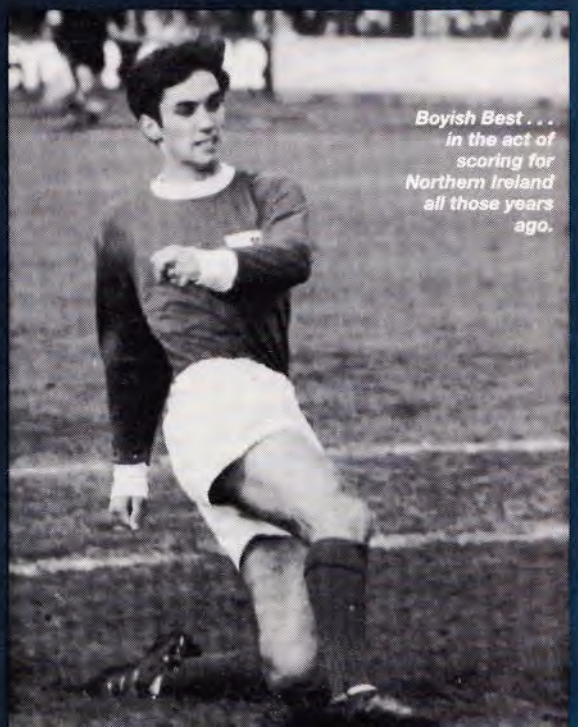
N. IRELAND v ALBANIA

THE IRISH have won three and drawn two of the five previous meetings, scoring nine goals to two.

The first two matches were World Cup qualifiers, the Irish winning 4-1 in 1965 with a goal from an 18-year-old George Best and a hat-trick by Johnny Crossan — but only managing a draw in Tirana, which cost them a place in a play-off for the 1966 finals. Albania have not scored in the three matches since.

Colin Clarke's goal against them last September was his 13th for Ireland, breaking the national record he had shared with Billy Gillespie, Joe Bambrick and Gerry Armstrong.

The 1-0 win over Albania in 1983 was Northern Ireland's 20th successive home game without defeat. Suleiman Demollari, the best Albanian footballer of the 1980s, played in that match and may turn out again this time.



Boyish Best . . . in the act of scoring for Northern Ireland all those years ago.

Celtic stop short as Frank turns tail

CELTIC manager Liam Brady has admitted that his team now have no chance of winning the Scottish League championship this season.

A concession of this nature would normally be regarded as tantamount to sacrilege by the traditionally optimistic, and fiercely loyal Celtic support, but little noticeable backlash from the club's followers has been evident.

They appear to have accepted, with almost visible collective resignation, that their chances of catching runaway leaders Rangers were realistically non-existent, even with four months of the season remaining.

Celtic have failed to capture a major trophy for almost four years now, and their only lasting hope of bringing silver to Parkhead this season lies in the Scottish Cup, the tournament they last won following the "treble-busting" Old Firm final of 1989.

The unrest at Celtic Park has worsened considerably after the controversial acquisition of Frank McAvennie. He had returned to the UK after a spell playing in Hong Kong, and had agreed to sign for Partick Thistle.

Having apparently given a verbal undertaking to manager John Lambie pending receipt of official clearance from Hong Kong, McAvennie (above) was paraded around the club's Firhill ground, suitably attired in team colours, unaware that his agent was simultaneously arranging for him to make a dramatic return to Celtic, a deal completed within 24 hours of the Firhill performance.

The McAvennie affair did little to assist Celtic's ailing public image and it is a sad indictment of their current predicament that, while Rangers deal regularly in multi-millions, Brady had been reduced to chasing a 33-year-old on a free transfer.The directors, unhappy that internal dealings have become public knowledge, have not yet commented on the situation.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**

Kevin goes to Cardiff

THE weather has upset the Konica League of Wales programme, with severe frost allowing a very wet spell. The front runners have stayed together, with only the odd change of places.

Cwmbran Town and Inter Cardiff continue to monopolise the top two slots, with Aberystwyth Town and Haverfordwest County keeping tabs.

Great disappointment was felt when the Aber-Inter match was frozen off and much now depends on matches in hand.

There were few surprises in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup, except for Fourth Division AFC Porth beating Aberstwyth Town 2-1.

Kevin Ratcliffe, former captain of Wales and leader of Everton in four FA Cup Finals, has moved to Cardiff City in a deal expected to push the Bluebirds back into the title race.

Ratcliffe, who scored only two league goals in 359 games for Everton, made a good start with one on his debut in a 2-1 victory at Carlsile.

Wrexham's season has taken such a remarkable turn in the Barclays League that they are now in contention for promotion to the Second Division.

LEAGUE OF WALES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Cardiff	19	13	2	4	47	21	41
Aberstywyth	17	13	0	4	43	21	39
Cwmbran	19	11	6	2	33	13	39
Haverfordwest	17	11	2	4	39	24	35
Bangor	19	10	3	6	38	33	33
Ebbw Vale	19	9	4	6	42	34	31
Conwy	19	9	4	6	26	24	31
Llanelli	19	8	3	8	32	30	27
Holywell	15	8	1	6	36	24	25
Abergavenny	20	6	6	8	27	28	24
Briton Ferry	17	6	5	6	35	36	23
Connah's Quay	16	7	0	9	30	40	21
Afan Lido	18	5	5	8	23	32	20
Maesteg Park	18	4	7	7	23	28	19
Fflint Town	19	5	3	11	24	36	18
Caersws	19	5	3	11	28	42	18
Newtown	19	4	6	9	29	48	18
Porthmadog	18	3	7	8	22	28	16
Mold Alex	14	5	0	9	26	34	15
Llandiloes	17	1	5	11	19	46	8

MEL AP IOR **THOMAS**

RESULTS

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	23	11	8	4	34	18	41
Aston Villa	23	11	8	4	34	25	41
Norwich	23	12	5	8	34	35	41
Blackburn	23	10	8	5	34	20	38
Ipswich	23	8	12	3	32	25	36
QPR	22	10	5	7	31	25	35
Chelsea	23	9	8	6	30	26	35
Manchester City	23	9	6	8	34	26	33
Arsenal	23	9	5	9	24	23	32
Coventry	23	8	8	7	33	33	32
Sheffield Weds.	23	7	9	7	28	29	30
Liverpool	22	8	5	9	35	35	29
Tottenham	23	7	8	8	23	31	29
Leeds United	23	7	7	9	35	38	29
Middlesbrough	23	6	9	8	33	34	27
Crystal Palace	23	6	9	8	29	35	27
Everton	23	7	5	11	23	30	26
Oldham	21	6	5	9	35	40	24
Southampton	23	5	9	9	23	25	24
Sheffield Utd	22	5	7	10	19	29	22
Wimbledon	23	4	9	10	26	33	21
Nottm. Forest	22	4	6	12	21	33	18

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

MIDWEEK

EVERTON 2 (Johnston 63, Beardsley 84)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Wright 62). **Att:** 35,628.

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — 4TH ROUND REPLAY

BLACKBURN ROVERS 6
WATFORD 1

WEEKEND

MIDDLESBROUGH 0
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 15,559.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Regis 34, McGrath 47)
NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Keane 9)
Att: 29,015.

IPSWICH TOWN 3 (Stockwell 58, Johnson 62, Goddard 88)
MAN CITY 1 (Flitcroft 37). **Att:** 16,833.

LEEDS UTD 3 (Speed 32, Chapman 47, Varadi 79)
SHEFFIELD WEDS 1 (Nilsson 37). **Att:** 29,770.

MANCHESTER UTD 1 (Hughes 58)
NORWICH CITY 0. **Att:** 34,500.

QPR 1 (Penrice 25)
CRYSTAL PALACE 3 (McGoldrick 46, 89, Armstrong 77). **Att:** 14,571.

SHEFFIELD UNITED 1 (Littlejohn 77)
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 16,266.

SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Maddison 9, Dowie 60)
COVENTRY CITY 2 (Quinn 6,60)
Att: 12,306.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Allen 21)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 33,707.

WIMBLEDON 5 (Ardley 17, 24, Holdsworth 21, 51, Clarke 50)
OLDHAM ATHLETIC 2 (Brennan 46, Milligan 63). **Att:** 3,386.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Walters 77, 84)
BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 80)
Att: 43,668.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

MIDWEEK

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — 4TH ROUND REPLAYS

IPSWICH TOWN 1
ASTON VILLA 0

CHELSEA 1
EVERTON 0

CRYSTAL PALACE 2
LIVERPOOL 1

WEEKEND

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 81)
MIDDLESBROUGH 1 (Wilkinson 34). **Att:** 23,197

BLACKBURN 1 (Moran 27)
SHEFFIELD UNITED 0. **Att:**16,057.

CHELSEA 1 (Lee 67)
MANCHESTER UTD 1 (Cantona 70). **Att:** 34,464.

COVENTRY CITY 5 (Borrows pen 37, 54, Gallagher 61, Quinn 70, 73)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Redknapp 64).
Att: 19,779.

EVERTON 2 (Beardsley pen 11, Rideout 35)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier 5).
Att: 14,051.

MANCHESTER CITY 1 (Flitcroft 58)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Parker 34)
Att: 23,525.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC 2 (Sharp 29, Olney 90)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 67)
Att: 11,375.

SHEFFIELD WEDS 1 (Bright 39)
QPR 0. **Att:** 23,164.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Thorn 29)
LEEDS UNITED 0. **Att:** 14,462.

NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Clough 5)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Clarke 12).
Att: 19,326

NORWICH 0
IPSWICH 2 (Kiwomya 52, Thompson 88).
Att: 20,032.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

MIDWEEK

ARSENAL 0
IPSWICH 0, **Att:** 16,198.

BLACKBURN 3 (Wilcox 8, Shearer 45, 58)
LEEDS 1 (McAllister 37). **Att:** 19,910.

CHELSEA 1 (Kitson 89)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Dowie 2).
Att: 18,344.

COVENTRY 3 (Quinn 52, 55, Rosario 60)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 24,245.

CRYSTAL PALACE 2 (Coleman 3, Thomas 39)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 16,825.

EVERTON 2 (Rideout 47, Beardsley 66 pen)
MIDDLESBROUGH 2 (Hignett 49, 82).
Att: 24,391.

MANCHESTER CITY 2 (White 20, 55)
SHEFFIELD UNITED 0. **Att:** 27,455.

NORWICH 0
TOTTENHAM 0. **Att:** 19,413.

SHEFFIELD WED 3 (Hirst 2, Bright 6, Sheridan 62)
MANCHESTER UNITED 3 (McClair 67, 80, Cantona 84). **Att:** 37,708.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v QPR — *postponed.*
OLDHAM v LIVERPOOL — *postponed.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

MIDWEEK

MIDDLESBROUGH 0
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Osborn 63). **Att:** 21,123.

IPSWICH 2 (Guentchev 80, Kiwomya 82)
BLACKBURN 1 (Wegerle 73)
Att: 21,431.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Saunders pen 45)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 35,170.

LEEDS UTD 0
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 30,282.

WIMBLEDON 0
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 14,690.

MANCHESTER UTD 5 (Giggs 6, Hughes 40, Cantona pen 64, Sharpe 78, Irwin 83)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 36,025.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Monkou 79)
SHEFFIELD WEDS 2 (Sheridan pen 12, Hirst 63). **Att:** 17,426.

TOTTENHAM 2 (Barmby 36, Mabbutt 86)
NOTTM. FOREST 1 (Gemmill 74).
Att: 32,118.

LIVERPOOL 1 (Rush 49)
MANCHESTER CITY 1 (Quinn 39). **Att:** 43,037.

QPR 4 (Sinton 22, 51, 88, Penrice 47)
EVERTON 2 (Barlow 66, 73).
Att: 14,802.

WEEKEND

FA CUP — 3RD ROUND

ASTON VILLA 1 (Cox 38)
BRISTOL ROVERS 1 (Browning 73). **Att:** 27,040.

BLACKBURN 3 (Ripley 51, 61, Newell 87)
BOURNEMOUTH 1 (Ekoku 12).
Att: 13,773.

HARTLEPOOL 1 (Saville 82 pen)
CRYSTAL PALACE 0. **Att:** 6,721.

LEEDS 1 (Speed 72)
CHARLTON 1 (Nelson 70). **Att:** 21,827.

MANCHESTER CITY 1 (Sheron 73)
READING 1 (Taylor 44). **Att:** 20,523.

OLDHAM 2 (Olney 56, Bernard 68)
TRANMERE 2 (Aldridge 24 pen, Nevin 27).
Att: 13,389.

MARLOW 1 (Lay 70)
TOTTENHAM 5 (Sheringham 20, Barmby 41, 90, Samways 50, 71).
Att: 26,636.

At White Hart Lane

WIMBLEDON 0
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 7,818.

YEOVIL 1 (Batty 78 pen)
ARSENAL 3 (Wright 26, 45, 68).
Att: 8,612.

QPR 3 (Ferdinand 21, 24, Penrice 26)
SWINDON 0. **Att:** 12,108.

Played on Monday, January 3

MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Phelan 7, Gillespie 79)
BURY 0. **Att:** 30,668.

Played on Tuesday, January 4.

● *All other matches postponed.*

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	24	19	4	1	58	18	42
Aberdeen	24	15	5	4	50	18	35
Celtic	25	11	8	6	37	28	30
Hearts	25	10	9	6	28	25	29
Dundee United	24	10	6	8	26	27	26
St Johnstone	25	7	9	9	33	40	23
Hibernian	25	6	10	9	26	34	22
Partick Thistle	25	7	7	11	37	42	21
Dundee	25	6	7	12	32	43	19
Falkirk	25	7	4	14	36	50	18
Airdrie	25	4	8	13	18	35	15
Motherwell	24	5	5	14	27	43	15

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

AIRDRIE 0
MOTHERWELL 2 (O'Donnell 59, Arnott 63). **Att:** 4,500.

CELTIC 1 (Payton 55)
DUNDEE 0 Att: 16,797.

DUNDEE UNITED 2 (Crabbe 73, McKinlay 77)
ABERDEEN 2 (Jess 21, Irvine 51).
Att: 10,374.

FALKIRK 1 (Wishart 86)
RANGERS 2 (Hateley 18, McCoist 75).
Att: 12,000.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Jackson pen 82)
PARTICK 0 **Att:** 6,078.

ST. JOHNSTONE 1 (Wright 66)
HEARTS 1 (Ferguson 34). **Att:** 4,362.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

MIDWEEK

ABERDEEN v RANGERS — *postponed*

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Richardson 55, Booth 73)
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 11,000.

DUNDEE 2 (Dodds 11, Stainrod 88)
FALKIRK 1 (Cadette 59). **Att:** 6,190.

HEARTS 1 (I.Ferguson 1)
CELTIC 0. **Att:** 13,554.

PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Johnston 70)
AIRDRIE 1 (Jack pen 73). **Att:** 3,937.

RANGERS 2 (Gough 56, Robertson 88)
ST. JOHNSTONE 0. att. 35,369.

MOTHERWELL v DUNDEE UTD — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

WEEKEND

CELTIC 0
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Ferguson 44).
Att: 22,862.

DUNDEE 1 (Stainrod 59)
RANGERS 3 (McCoist 7, Hateley 48, 65)
Att: 13,983.

FALKIRK 3 (Cadette 43, Drinkell 48, McCall 87)
HIBERNIAN 3 (Fellenger 10, 70, Evans 23). **Att:** 6,958.

HEARTS 1 (McKay 58)
PARTICK 1 (Britton 60). **Att:** 9,922.

MOTHERWELL 0
ABERDEEN 2 (Irvine 69, Jess 82)
Att: 7,907.

ST. JOHNSTONE 1 (Arkins 56)
AIRDRIE 0. **Att:** 4,136.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 0
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 13,200.

HIBERNIAN 0
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 21,650.

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Crabbe 65)
ST. JOHNSTONE 2 (Davies 44, Wright 80). **Att:** 10,316.

PARTICK 0
MOTHERWELL 1 (Martin 25).
Att: 6,500.

AIRDRIE 0
FALKIRK 1 (Duffy 32)
Att: 6,500.

RANGERS 1 (Steven 33)
CELTIC 0. **Att:** 46,039.

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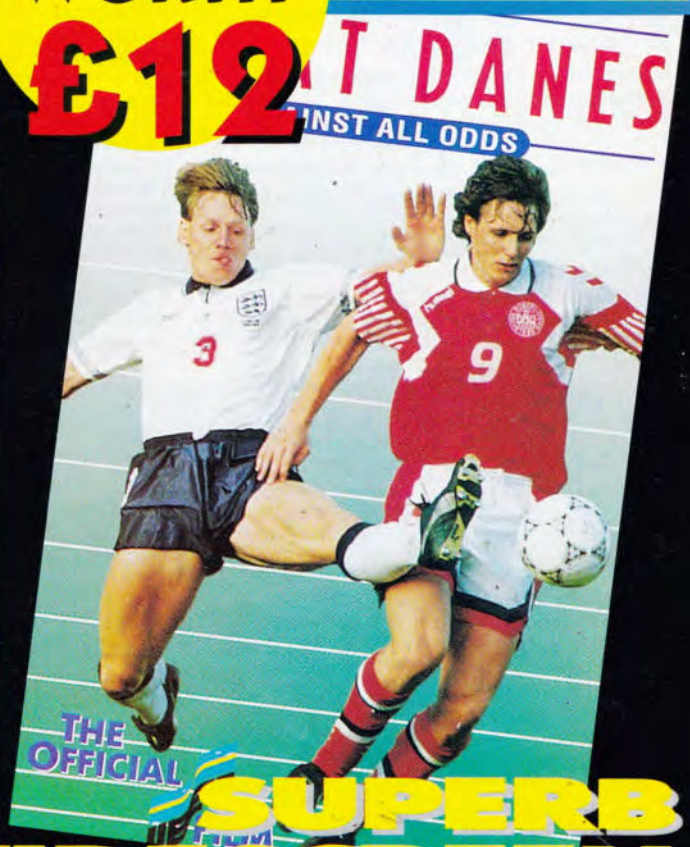

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DIARY

1 DECEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: Israel lose 2-1 at home to Bulgaria in the European Under-21 Championship.

GERMANY: The part-timers of Hertha Berlin beat Nurnberg to reach the semi-finals of the German Cup. Werder Bremen, eliminated from the Cup-winners' Cup, slip again — beaten 2-1 by former East German club Chemnitz.

ITALY: Fiorentina decide to change their away strip after fans point out that the design includes a motif which resembles a swastika.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Manchester United 1-0 in a match to celebrate the 50th birthday, earlier in the year, of Eusebio. Rui Costa scores the winner in the 81st minute. Eric Cantona ***(below)*** makes his debut for United and is booked.

HOLLAND: Ajax are surprisingly beaten 1-0 at home by Twente Enschede, who duly move into second place in the table behind PSV.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA rule that Mikhael Rusyayev's transfer from Oldenburg to Moscow Spartak should be ratified, though it demands an explanation from the Russian Federation on why it failed to comply with the necessary paperwork. UEFA then confirm that Moscow Spartak can take their place, as scheduled, in the quarter-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup next spring; FIFA reject the Italian plea for a suspension of Diego Maradona, accepting Spanish assurances that banking red tape alone is to blame for the fact that Napoli have yet to receive full transfer instalment payments; FIFA makes no decision on foreign player restrictions but sets up a working party to study implications of international law; FIFA ends an international ban on Fernando Astengo, former Chilean captain who was involved in the controversial World Cup qualifier against Brazil in 1989 in Rio de Janeiro; FIFA rejects the new plea from Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic to delay their World Cup expulsion.

RUSSIA: Moscow Spartak's continuance in the Cup-winners' Cup is put in doubt after it is revealed that Mikhael Rusyayev, who played against both Avenir Beggen and Liverpool this season, had not been properly transferred from Oldenburg of the German Second Division in the summer. Oldenburg claim he owes them £22,000 and that an international transfer certificate was never issued. The German club's officials spotted Rusyayev while watching Cup-winners' Cup television highlights.

2 DECEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Bulgaria win 2-0 away to Israel in a World Cup European group six tie.

ITALY: Italian League players decide to parade anti-racism banenrs before First and Second Division league matches on December 13.

YUGOSLAVIA: Prime Minister Milan Panic again asks FIFA to postpone a decision on excluding his country from the World Cup qualifiers.

3 DECEMBER THURSDAY

SWITZERLAND: FIFA agrees that Beirut, Lebanon, is now safe enough to host a first round of matches in World Cup Asian qualifying group D; Italian Federation president Antonio Matarrese asks FIFA to suspend Diego Maradona while Napoli have yet to receive the latest down-payment from Sevilla on his transfer.

4 DECEMBER FRIDAY

BELGIUM: Anderlecht increase their lead to four points, beating Boom 4-1 while pursuers Standard lose 2-1 at Gent.

FRANCE: Nantes draw 1-1 at Valenciennes so Paris Saint-Germain go top on goal difference after beating Bordeaux 6-0.

5 DECEMBER SATURDAY

ACTION: Honduras beat Costa Rica 2-1 to secure their place in the final CONCACAF round of the World Cup qualifiers . . . Australia beat Brazil 1-0 in an Under-20 friendly . . . Eintracht Frankfurt win 2-0 at Kaiserslautern to move to within one point of Bayern Munich at the top of the German table. Bayern draw 2-2 at Bochum thanks to an 88th-minute goal from Matthaus . . . Porto carry on winning in Portugal, beating Chaves 2-1, but Benfica are held goalless at home by Beira-Mar. Sporting take second place thanks to a 3-2 home win over Maritimo. Cadete (two) and Juskowiak score Sporting's goals . . . Besiktas' long unbeaten run comes to an end with a 3-1 home defeat by Galatasaray.

6 DECEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: Mexico thrash St Vincent 11-0 in the CONCACAF round of the World Cup qualifiers. Canada force a 0-0 draw away to Bermuda and El Salvador beat Jamaica 2-1. Mexico and Honduras, Canada and El Salvador all qualify for the final round . . . Africa Sports of Ivory Coast beat Vital 'O of Burundi 4-0 (5-1 on agg) in the second leg of the African Cup-winners' Cup Final . . . Boca Juniors lose 3-2 at home to Deportivo Espanol and now lead River Plate by only one point in Argentina . . . Palmeiras beat Sao Paulo 2-1 in the first leg of the Sao Paulo Championship play-off. In Rio, furious fans accuse Bangu and America of match-fixing after a 1-1 draw saves both teams from relegation . . . Feyenoord goalkeeper Ed De Goey is sent off in a 2-2 draw against Vitesse . . . Milan are held 1-1 by Udinese but extend their lead to four points as second-placed Inter crash 3-0 at Ancona. Jurgen Kohler is sent off as Juventus lose 2-0 at Fiorentina . . . Real Madrid lose badly, by 2-0 to capital neighbours Rayo Vallecano . . . Young Boys top the Swiss League at the end of the autumn championship.

7 DECEMBER MONDAY

FRANCE: Marseille sign ex-CIS forward Igor Dobrovolski on loan for the rest of the season from Genoa.

GERMANY: Berti Vogts names his squad for the imminent trip to Brazil and Uruguay. Injury rules out Karlheinz Riedle. Squad: Illgner, Kopke; Buchwald, Kohler, Thon, Reinhardt, Kohler, Wagner, Walter, Worns; Effenberg, Hassler, Matthaus, Moller, Sammer, Scholz, Zorc; Doll, Kirsten, Thom, Klinsmann, Labbadia.

8 DECEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: Five UEFA Cup third round ties are concluded with the qualification of Paris Saint-Germain, Auxerre, Benfica, Ajax and Borussia Dortmund.

BRAZIL: Brazil's squad for the friendly against Germany is: Taffarel, Gilmar; Jorginho, Luis Carlos Winck, Aldair, Celio Silva, Ricardo Gomes, Paulao, Branco, Leonardo; Dunga, Mauro Silva, Luiz Henrique, Junior, Silas, Zinho; Edmundo, Renato, Careca, Romario, Bebeto, Paulo Sergio.

PLAYER of the MONTH

. . . Rai, for inspiring Sao Paulo's World Club Cup defeat of Barcelona and then capitalising on it by negotiating a lucrative transfer to Paris Saint-Germain.

HOLLAND: Ruud Gullit changes his mind and ends his premature retirement from the Dutch national team.

UNITED STATES: The national managers of Brazil, England, Germany and the United States are all present in New York for confirmation of details of the US Cup '93 from June 6-19. England will play Germany, in the final match in the mini-league, indoors at Pontiac.

9 DECEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Milan maintain their domination of the Champions League, winning 2-1 away to PSV Eindhoven with all their own three Dutchmen — Van Basten, Gullit and opening goal-scorer Rijkaard — in the starting line-up. In the other matches IFK Gothenburg beat FC Porto 1-0, Rangers win 1-0 away to CSKA Moscow in Bochum and Marseille beat Club Brugge 3-0 with two goals from Boksic . . . Australia lose 2-1 to Brazil in an Under-20 international in Canberra.

ENGLAND: Extracts from Gary Lineker's forthcoming book, published in daily newspapers, suggest a far greater rift with England manager Graham Taylor than had been admitted.

FRANCE: Marseille coach Raymond Goethals says he will retire at the end of the season.

10 DECEMBER THURSDAY

BRAZIL: Plans are unveiled in Rio de Janeiro to redevelop the Maracana to include a cultural and shopping centre as well as a football museum.

HUNGARY: Jozsef Szendrei, former national goalkeeper, opens a sports shop in Budapest — after having his application to take over as Ujpest coach turned down by his old club.

SPAIN: Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro, who is talking to the club about renewing a contract which expires at the end of the season, admits he has already received inquiries from Italy . . . Zaragoza order spy reports on Leverkusen's Andreas Thom.

11 DECEMBER FRIDAY

BRAZIL: Pele demands "exemplary punishment" for veteran international Junior who head-butted referee Jorge Travassos after being sent off playing for Flamengo against Vasco. It was Junior's fourth expulsion in 18 years. Pele makes his call after a press conference to announce his analyst's role with *TV Globo* for the 1994 World Cup finals.

FRANCE: The federation confirms Marseille's decision to sign Igor Dobrovolski for the rest of the season on loan from Genoa — which thus raises a question mark over the future of ex-Yugoslav Dragan Stojkovic . . . Jacques Lambert, 44, is appointed director-general of France's 1998 World Cup organising authority.

HOLLAND: Injured Dennis Bergkamp pulls out of Holland's squad for the World Cup tie against Turkey.

ITALY: Police arrest two youths on discovering a cache of crude hooligan weapons apparently being prepared for use on rival fans at the league match against Juventus.

JAPAN: Sao Paulo confirm that Tonino Cerezo, now 37, will play against Barcelona in the weekend's World Club Cup final. Cerezo played against Barcelona for Sampdoria in last season's Champions' Cup Final.

SPAIN: The squad for the World Cup tie against Latvia includes only two Real Madrid players, Martin Vazquez and Alfonso . . . Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza denies he is considering dismissing coach Benito Floro . . . top referee Joaquin Ramos Marcos says he will retire after the weekend's game between Real Sociedad and Sevilla.

12 DECEMBER SATURDAY

FRANCE: Nantes beat Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 in the Match of the Season. The only goal is a penalty converted by Ouedec.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The last general assembly of the Czechoslovak Federation agrees to split responsibilities between the fedrations of Czecho-moravia and Slovakia consequent upon the political split on January 1. Separate leagues and national teams will be established and the two countries will seek independent recognition from FIFA and UEFA and separate World Cup representation once the present event has been completed in 1994.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich are held 1-1 at home by Schalke but hold the league leadership as the championship enters its midwinter break.

ITALY: The Italian federation urges FIFA to reopen the Maradona transfer inquiry after Napoli repeat their complaint that Sevilla are behind with payments.

SPAIN: Maradona, despite fears of cartilage trouble, plays all 90 minutes as Sevilla lose 1-0 away to Real Sociedad.

TURKEY: Galatasaray midfielder Muhammad Altintas is seriously injured after his car collides with a lorry. He undergoes six-hour surgery for head and other injuries.

13 DECEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: Sao Paulo hit back from 1-0 down to beat Barcelona 2-1 in the World Club Cup Final in Tokyo . . . Renato scores a hat-trick as Cruzeiro beat Atletico Mineiro 3-2 in the final of the Minas Gerais State Championship. Internacional of Porto Alegre beat Fluminense 1-0 to win the Brazilian Cup. Inter will enter the South American club cup, Fluminense the CONMEBOL Cup (South American equivalent of the UEFA Cup) . . . Italian players unfurl banners proclaiming anti-racist slogans before all the First and Second Division games. Milan then beat Ancona 2-0 to extend their unbeaten run to 47 games . . . Real Madrid beat Celta 1-0 with an 83rd-minute goal by Zamorano. La Coruna thrash Bilbao 3-0 . . . Partizan beat Borac Banjluka 3-0 to finish the first half of the Yugoslav championship five points clear of Red Star.

TEAM of the MONTH

. . . Milan, for completing a full calendar year undefeated in the Italian League.

WHAT'S ON

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group G: Senegal v Mozambique. **Group H:** Zambia v Namibia. **Group I:** Kenya v Mali.
International: United States v Denmark (Phoenix).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group A: Ghana v Burundi. **Group B:** Zaire v Swaziland. **Group C:** Egypt v Togo, Zimbabwe v Angola. **Group D:** Congo v South Africa. **Group E:** Ivory Coast v Niger. **Group F:** Morocco v Benin, Tunisia v Ethiopia. **Group H:** Madagascar v Tanzania.

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
International: United States v Denmark (Los Angeles).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
International: United States v Romania (Santa Barbara).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
European Super Cup, 1st leg: Werder Bremen v Barcelona.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 4: Cyprus v Belgium.
International: United States v Russia (Orlando).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
World Cup qualifier, Africa Group C: Angola v Togo.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Scotland v Malta. **Group 2:** England v San Marino. **Group 3:** Albania v Northern Ireland. **Group 5:** Greece v Luxembourg. **Group 6:** Israel v France.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
International: Argentina v Brazil (River Plate).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
International: United States v Russia (Palo Alto).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Franchi Trophy: Argentina v Denmark (Buenos Aires).
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Portugal v Italy. **Group 2:** Holland v Turkey. **Group 3:** Spain v Lithuania.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
World Cup qualifier, Africa Group A: Algeria v Ghana.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group D: Nigeria v Congo. **Group G:** Senegal v Gabon. **Group H:** Zambia v Madagascar. **Group I:** Kenya v Guinea.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28
World Cup qualifiers, Africa Group B: Cameroon v Zaire. **Group C:** Egypt v Zimbabwe, Togo v Angola. **Group E:** Niger v Botswana. **Group F:** Benin v Ethiopia, Morocco v Tunisia. **Group H:** Namibia v Tanzania.

FINLAND: Tommy Lindholm, coach to TPs Turku, is appointed new national manager in succession to Jukka Vakkila.

RUSSIA: Almost 14 years after his death in a car crash, the memory of 1966 World Cup star Valeri Voronin is to be honoured with a monument in Moscow.

14 MONDAY DECEMBER

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona is given another provisional all-clear after flying back from Seville to

CONTINUED OVER

Buenos Aires to respond to a court check on his probation which includes anti-drugs therapy.

FRANCE: Sochaux sign Kiev Dynamo's Pavel Yakovenko on the strength only of video evidence.

ITALY: One-time Juventus hero Omar Sivori accuses his old club of "seven years of blunders." . . . Arrigo Sacchi names nine Milan players, including revelation Marco Simone, in his World Cup squad to play Malta.

15 DECEMBER TUESDAY

ACTION: In the European Under-21s, Turkey draw 1-1 with Holland while Germany lose 2-1 at home to Spain.

BRAZIL: PSV striker Romario is furious to learn that he will not feature in Brazil's starting line-up against Germany.

HOLLAND: Marco Van Basten quits training early on the eve of the World Cup tie against Turkey, complaining of a painful right ankle.

MEXICO: Cesar Luis Menotti quits as national manager, complaining about the politics. Menotti's departure was inevitable after the ousting of the federation president who appointed him, Francisco Ibarra. Menotti had been critised by the local media for not selecting Hugo Sanchez.

SWITZERLAND: The draw for the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup in March is: Roma v Borussia Dortmund, Real Madrid v Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica v Juventus, Auxerre v Ajax.

DID YOU KNOW

. . . Real Madrid star Michel was given his chance originally because of a Spanish players' strike.

16 DECEMBER WEDNESDAY

ACTION: Turkey lose 3-1 at home to Holland in the World Cup. Man of the match, in the absence of injured Bergkamp and Van Basten, is two-goal Peter Van Vossen . . . in another World Cup tie, Spain beat Latvia 5-0 . . . Brazil beat Germany 3-1 in a friendly in Porto Alegre . . . South Korea beat hosts Singapore 1-0 in the semi-finals of the annual Merlion Cup . . . Malta lose 1-0 to Italy in the European Under-21s.

ARGENTINA: Local news agencies report that Maradona will make his national team comeback against Brazil on February 18.

PORTUGAL: Boavista score twice in the last 10 minutes to force a 2-2 draw with neighbours FC Porto in the second leg of the Super Cup. Boavista, surprisingly, thus win the Super Cup 4-3 on aggregate.

UNITED STATES: The USSF names a squad of 20 players called up for preparation for the World Cup finals and who will be based in the USSF training centre at Mission Viejo. The squad does not include foreign-based players.

17 DECEMBER THURSDAY

ENGLAND: Wolves say they will restage the historic friendly against Honved next December to mark the official opening of the new Billy Wright Stand . . . the Premier League announces a £3million sponsorship deal with Lucozade.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich say Thomas Berthold, a 1990 World Cup-winner but surplus to Bayern requirements, is available for free transfer.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid coach Luis Aragones threatens to quit after boardroom criticism following last weekend's defeat by Osasuna.

SWEDEN: European Championship defender Patrik Andersson agrees to join Blackburn after Malmo agree an £800,000 fee. Andersson must now await a work permit.

18 DECEMBER FRIDAY

FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain slip again, this time beaten 1-0 at home by Marseille through an Alen Boksic goal . . . Saint-Etienne winger Lubomir Moravcik is voted Czechoslovakia's Footballer of the Year.

GERMANY: Members of the team beaten by Brazil on Wednesday defend embattled coach Berti Vogts, saying: "It's not his fault but ours. We were the ones who played badly."

HOLLAND: Romario follows up his substitute's appearance for Brazil against Germany by saying he intends to quit football when he is 29 because "there's too much dishonesty in the game."

ITALY: Marco Van Basten learns he is to be named 1992 European Footballer of the Year by *Paris* magazine — and that, after the presentation, he is undergo surgery on his troublesome right ankle and may be out of action for two months.

ROMANIA: Steaua will give their Bucharest stadium a £2.5million facelift thanks to cash from the sale abroad of nine star players.

19 DECEMBER SATURDAY

ACTION: Italy scrape a lucky 2-1 win away to Malta in the World Cup qualifiers and have Franco Baresi sent off for a professional foul . . . Tanzania beat Namibia 2-0 in the African section of the World Cup qualifiers . . . South Korea beat China 3-1 in the Final of the Merlion Cup in Singapore . . . Nantes, Auxerre and Monaco are all level on 26 points as the French League enters its winter break . . . four players are sent off as Sevilla beat Real Madrid 2-0 in Spain. Madrid end the match with eight players after the expulsions of Ricardo Rocha, Michel and Prosinecki.

FRANCE: Jean Fournet-Fayard is re-elected president of the federation despite the various disasters of the past year. Anger is provoked throughout the game when Michel Hidalgo, coaching expert Georges Boulogne and referees' representatives all fail in elections to the national council.

20 DECEMBER SUNDAY

ACTION: A full programme of World Cup qualifying football in Africa includes a surprise 2-1 for Zimbabwe against 1990 finalists Egypt . . . Uruguay lose 4-1 at home to Germany in a Montevideo friendly . . . Boca Juniors win Argentina's First Division title for the first time in 11 years. One baby is killed by a stray "celebratory" bullet, 100 people are hurt and 139 arrested in violence surrounding the last matches of both Boca (1-1 against Atletico San Martin) and old rivals River Plate (their match against Argentinos Juniors has to be abandoned at half-time with River 1-0 ahead after police resort to tear gas to halt fighting in the stands) . . . Nilis scores both goals as Anderlecht beat Charleroi 2-0 to open up a four-point lead in Belgium . . . Cobreloa win the Chile championship . . . Sporting beat Belenenses 3-0 to move to second place in Portugal, four points behind leaders Porto who are held goalless at home by Beira-Mar . . . Barcelona, in Spain, hit back from 2-0 and 3-1 down to draw 3-3 away to Rayo Vallecano — despite the expulsions of Stoichkov (after seven minutes) and Koeman. La Coruna beat Zaragoza 2-0 to go back to the top of the table.

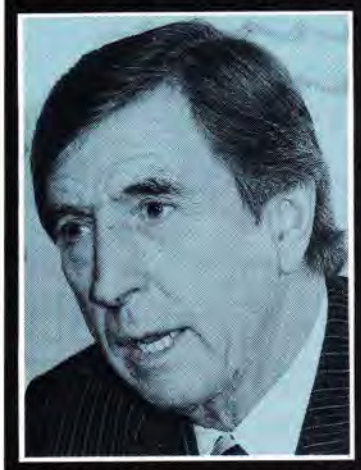
21 DECEMBER MONDAY

BULGARIA: Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov is voted Bulgarian Footballer of the Year.

ITALY: Milan say Marco Van Basten will be out of the game for three months after he undergoes surgery on his damaged right ankle in Switzerland. A Milan spokesman says the injury was more serious than had been thought.

SOUTH KOREA: The Sports Ministry announces its intention of bidding to host the 2002 World Cup finals, for which Japan are early front-runners.

OBITUARY



TED CROKER: Former secretary of the FA who died aged 68 on Christmas Day. Croker will always be remembered as the man who told then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that "we don't want your hooligans in our sport," at a time when knee-jerk legislative proposals in the wake of the Heysel disaster threatened to stifle soccer in red tape. Croker gained his right to independent thought through careers as a professional footballer, RAF training officer and successful businessman.His role at the FA was to try to bridge the gap between the old amateur traditions and the demands of an ever-more-commercially conscious professional game. He had his critics, like anyone in a high-profile post, but none could deny his personal charm and enjoyment of life.

BILLY COOK: former Celtic, Everton and Northern Ireland full-back, aged 83. His 15 international caps, a significant total in the 1930s, included the celebrated 7-0 defeat by England at Maine Road in 1938 when Cook, though tormented by Stanley Matthews, refused to resort to foul tactics. He later coached in Norway and Peru.

BRIAN DOYLE: Former Manchester City, Stoke, Exeter and Bristol Rovrs full-back, aged 62. Doyle later coached with great success in Kuwait and Finland.

EDUARDO DA SILVA: Player with Brazilian club Operario, who died aged 31, after being struck in the chest by a stone thrown during a scuffle between players and spectators.

EMILIO RECOBA: Last surviving member of Uruguay's 1930 World Cup-winning squad, dies in Montevideo aged 87. Recoba was reserve at the 1930 finals to skipper and right-back Jose Nasazzi and did not play a game.

JACK CRAYSTON: Half-back in the great Arsenal side of the 1930s, dies aged 78. Crayston played for Barrow and Bradford and won eight caps for England. After the war he became assistant to manager Tom Whittaker and succeeded him as manager briefly in the mid-1950s.

SOCCER ON TV . . .

EUROSPORT

REGULAR PROGRAMMES: EUROGOALS MAGAZINE — Monday 22.00, Tuesday 11.00, 18.00, Wednesday 10.30.

TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY
10.30 ... EUROGOALS
19.00 ... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY
19.30 ... EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY
12.00 ... EUROGOALS
22.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY
11.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.
22.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY
19.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY
21.00 ... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY
08.00 ... EUROGOALS
17.00 ... EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY
15.00 ... EUROGOALS
21.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY
13.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.
21.00 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY
13.30 ... FOOTBALL 1994 — World Cup qualifying rounds.

SKY SPORTS

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY
15.00 ... PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL — ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL

WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY
18.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — EVERTON
19.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE
01.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY
12.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — EVERTON
15.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL
23.30 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
24.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — EVERTON

FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY
07.30 ... NETBUSTERS
09.30 ... THE BOOT ROOM
11.00 ... NETBUSTERS
12.00 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY
10.30 ... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY
08.00 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
11.00 ... THE CLUB SHOW — EVERTON
14.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY — PREVIEW
16.00 ... LIVE MATCH — TBC

MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY
15.00 ... PREMIER LEAGUE FOOTBALL — TBC
19.00 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — LIVE
24.00 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY
08.30 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
15.00 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — LEEDS UNITED V MANCHESTER UNITED

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY
18.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW NORWICH
01.00 ... THE CLUB SHOW NORWICH

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY
12.00 ... THE CLUB SHOW NORWICH
01.30 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY
12.00 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
14.00 ... THE BOOT ROOM

SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY
18.30 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY
11.30 ... SUPER SUNDAY PREVIEW
12.30 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE TBC
18.30 ... FA CUP DRAW
23.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY
03.00 ... THE CLUB SHOW — NORWICH

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY
15.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY
18.30 .. THE CLUB SHOW — MAN CITY
19.00 .. WORLD CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE
24.00 .. WORLD CUP FOOTBALL

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY
07.00 ... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
12.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — MANCHESTER CITY
15.00 ... WORLD CUP FOOTBALL
21.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — MAN CITY
24.00 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY
12.00 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
23.30 ... SKY SOCCER UPDATE

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY
14.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY PREVIEW
16.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE TBC
18.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY TALKBACK

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY
11.30 ... GOALS ON SUNDAY
15.30 ... SUPER SUNDAY
19.00 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — TBC
01.30 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
01.00 ... GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY
15.00 ... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY
18.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — ASTON VILLA
19.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL
24.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY
12.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — ASTON VILLA
15.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL
01.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — ASTON VILLA
23.30 ... GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY
12.30 ... GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
23.30 ... SKY SOCCER UPDATE
24.30 ... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY
10.30 ... SKY SOCCER UPDATE

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY
11.00 ... THE CLUB SHOW — ASTON VILLA
14.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY PREVIEW
16.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY LIVE — TBC
18.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY TALKBACK
23.00 ... GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
01.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY

REGULAR PROGRAMMES:
SOCCER NEWS — Monday 18.00 & 22.00, Wednesday 18.00 & 22.00, Thursday 18.00.
GOAL (THE FIFA QUIZ) — Monday 17.30, 23.00, Saturday 18.00.
THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW — Tuesday 21.00 Wednesday 09.30, 16.00.
NETBUSTERS — Thursday 17.30, 01.00, Friday 07.30, 11.00 Sunday 11.30
THE BOOT ROOM — Thursday 20.30, Friday 09.30, 17.00, Saturday 09.30
SKY SOCCER WEEKEND — Friday 18.00 &23.30.

SCREENSPORT

WORLD SOCCER PAGE ? SCREENSPORT FEBRUARY

REGULAR PROGRAMMES:
TOP MATCH FOOTBALL (from Spain, Holland and Portugal) — Monday 16.30, Tuesday 14.00, Sunday 21.00.
FOOTBALL EUROPA (goals and news from European leagues) — Monday 21.30, Tuesday 17.30, Wednesday 19.30, Thursday 18.30, Friday 08.00.
FOOTBALL HOLLAND — Thursday 20.30, Friday 07.30, 15.00, 22.30,Saturday 06.30.
FUTBOL ESPANOL — Thursday 21.00, Friday 16.30, Saturday 09.00
FOOTBALL FRANCE — Thursday 22.00, Friday 15.30

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10
07.00 ... FOOTBALL EUROPA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12
16.00 ... FOOTBALL HOLLAND

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13
00.30 ... FUTBOL ESPANOL
09.30 ... FUTBOL ESPANOL

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17
12.30 ... FOOTBALL EUROPA
22.45 ... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19
11.00 ... FOOTBALL FRANCE
14.30 ... FOOTBALL HOLLAND
14.00 ... FOOTBALL FRANCE
15.00 ... FUTBOL ESPANOL
23.30 ... FUTBOL ESPANOL

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20
09.30 ... FUTBOL ESPANOL
10.30 ... FOOTBALL HOLLAND

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22
17.00 ... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25
07.00 ... FOOTBALL EUROPA

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26
16.00 ... FOOTBALL HOLLAND

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28
22.00 ... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL

CROSS WORD

BY CHRISTINE ANSELL

ACROSS

1. Coach to Spain's La Coruna (8)

6. Former German midfield star recently featuring as Bayern's sweeper (4)

7. Philippe, Anderlecht's Belgium defender recruited from Mechelen (6)

9. Former Genoa midfielder of Milan and Italy (6)

10. Ex-Hagan (?) full-back stalwart of Werder Bremen's 80s' sides (5)

11. Ex-Dunfermline Hungarian at Anfield (5)

14. Swedish 1992 UEFA Cup contenders from the Eyravallen Stadium (6)

16. Brazilian full-back renowned as Genoa's free-kick expert (6)

17. Winners of the inaugural European Nations' Cup (1.1.1.1.)

18. Former Glasgow Rangers 'keeper with Betar Tel Aviv (8)

DOWN

2. AC Milan Dutchman voted European Player of the Year, 1987 (6)

3. Matthias Sammer's Italian League club (5)

4. Albanian international goalkeeper contracted to Ethnikos in Greece (9)

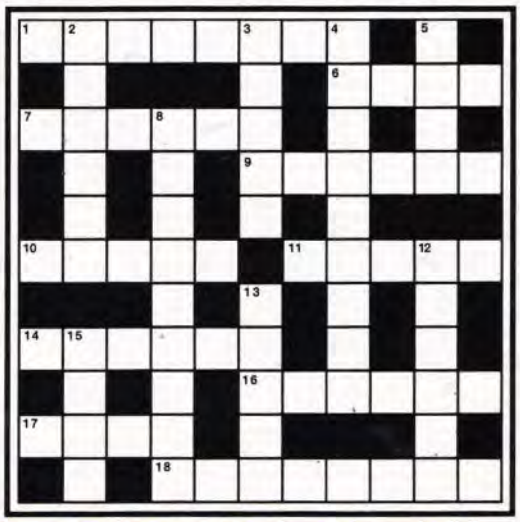
5. Tough-tackling Marseille defender previously with Auxerre (4)

8. A Fiorentina midfield capture from Bayern (9)

12. Former 16-cap Newcastle Scot — Plymouth manager, 1981-83 (6)

13. Fiery Dinamo Zagreb & Yugoslavia forward shuttled to Bari via Milan (5)

15. Record goalscorer of Liverpool and Wales (4)



JANUARY SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1. Divert, 3. CSKA, 7. Marschall, 9. Lodz, 10. Mateut, 12. Bilbao, 13. Riga, 16. San Marino, 17. Daum, 18. Happel

DOWN: 1. Demol, 2. Reck, 4. Salvemini, 5. Aalst, 6. Nada, I8. Radulescu, 11. Lanna, 12. Blind, 14. Apoel, 15. Lasa.

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

MICHAEL DOWEY of Doncaster, South Yorkshire is the winner of the January Quiz with all ten correct. Try your luck with this month's questions — answers on a postcard please to: Worldwide Quiz, *WORLD SOCCER*, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

1. Name the only English goal-keeper to score a goal and concede a goal to another goalkeeper (not in the same match).

2. Which player appeared in a World Cup Final a few weeks after setting an individual scoring record for one of the European competitions?

3. In which season was one of the Football League promotion play-offs played on a plastic pitch, for the first and only time?

4. Which club knocked Derby County out of the Champions' Cup despite losing the first leg 4-1?

5. Name the first player-manager to appear in a First Division game.

6. Which club appeared in a European final with a team containing Wittkamp, Wohlers and Wimmer?

7. Wales played an international in Gifu, Japan, last June. Name the opposing country.

8. Which celebrated referee died in Syracuse in September 1991?

9. Name the country whose last four national team managers have been named Terry, Dave, Danny and Billy.

10. Which club lost 7-1 in their final match of a season in the 70s, in what proved to be their final match as members of the Football League?

Answers to the January quiz:

1 .... Florian Albert.
2 .... Albania, Croatia and Georgia.
3 .... Joe Fagan (Liverpool, below).

4 .... Albion Rovers.
5 .... Bulawayo Highlanders, Zimbabwe.
6 .... David Herd.
7 .... Ian Callaghan.
8 .... Manchester United.
9 .... All the other 10 players had surnames beginning with the letter M.
10 .. Paddy Mulligan.

Wydad and Sports take a title each

WYDAD Casablanca of Morocco and Ivory Coast's Africa Sports have finally achieved long-held ambitions by winning major African titles.

The Moroccans won the continent's premier title, the Champions' Cup, in a keenly fought contest with El Hilal of Sudan, and Africa Sports romped to their first trophy with a 5-1 aggregate win over Vital 'O of Burundi in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Both winners are among the few big-budget African clubs, able to entice foreign stars and hire imported coaches. But up until the end of 1992, neither had been able to convert that cash supremacy into any tangible silverware.

Wydad, built around Senegalese striker Moussa Ndaw and Moroccan international midfielder Rachidi Daoudi, won their tie 2-0 on aggregate, with a workmanlike performance.

The only sparkle came right at the end of the first leg in Casablanca, when Wydad scored twice in the final three minutes, first through a Daoudi penalty after Ndaw had been floored, then from Fertout. Roles were reversed in the second leg. Wydad defended well against a frustrated Sudanese attack and the game ended goalless, with Wydad becoming the third Moroccan team to win the Sekou Toure trophy.

Africa Sports, spearheaded by Nigerian Gabriel Okolosi, romped home after a poor start against Vital 'O.

Captain Jean-Marie Mbuyi's goal on the half-hour in the first leg in Bujumbura stung the fancied Ivorians, but they were fortunate to go away with a 1-1 draw, Serge-Alain Maguy scoring from a free-kick.

The second leg was one-way. Africa Sports went three up before the break, including Okolosi's eighth goal of the tournament, and added another.

The win made up for previous disappointments for the club, beaten on penalties in the final of the 1986 Champions' Cup and again in 1980 in the final of the Cup-winners' Cup.

The CAF Cup, Africa's equivalent of the UEFA Cup, was won by Shooting Stars of Nigeria (see January issue).

MARK **GLEESON**

Captain's role . . . Mbuyi scores the Vital 'O goal in the Cup-winners' Cup Final.

CAF CUP — 1992

First round

Kisumu Postal (Ken) v Small Simba (Tan) 2-1, 2-0
Nakivubo SV (Uga) v Moneni Pirates (Swa) 3-1, 2-1
Elwahda (Lib) v Al Mourada (Sud) 1-0, 2-2
ASM Oran (Alg) v AS Air Mauritanie (Mauritania) . 4-0, 1-2
Mufulira W. (Zam) withdrew v Sagrada Esperance (Ang)
Linare (Les) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz) 0-0, 0-4
Djoliba (Mali) v USCB (BF) 2-1, 0-1
Shooting Stars SC (Nig) ..... bye
Etoile du Congo (Con) v Desp. Mongomo (EG) 5-0, 0-1
SC Gagnoa (IC) v Petroca (CAR) 3-0, 0-1
Diamant de Yaounde (Cam) v Ascot (Chad) 2-0,1-1
Mbongo Sport (Zai) v African Stars (Nam) 3-0, 2-0
AS Kaloum (Gui) v ASMO (Gab) 3-0, 1-5
Real Tamale Utd (Gha) v Dragons de l'Oueme (Ben) 1-0, 0-1
Dragons won 6-5 on pens
CA Bizerte (Tun) v Zumunta (Niger) 3-0, 1-1
ASAC Ndiambour (Sen) v East End Lions (SL) 0-0, 0-0
ASAC won 5-4 on pens

Second round

Nakivubo v Kismu Postal 1-0, 1-0
ASM Oran v Tlwahda 3-0, 1-3
Ferroviario v Sagrada 3-2, 2-3
Ferroviario won 5-4 on pens
USCB v Shooting Stars 1-1, 0-3
SC Gagnoa v Etoile 2-0, 1-0
Mbongo Sport v Diamant 0-0, 1-1
Dragons v ASMO 0-0, 0-3
ASAC Ndiambour v CA Bizerte 1-0, 1-4

Quarter-finals

SC Gagnoa v Ferroviario 0-2, 1-3
Nakivubo SV v ASMO 3-1, 0-1
ASM Oran v CA Bizerte 0-0, 0-2
Shooting Stars v Mbongo Sport 1-0, 0-1
Stars won 4-3 on pens

Semi-finals

Nakivubo SV v Ferroviario 1-1, 1-1
Villa won 4-3 on pens
CA Bizerte v Shooting Stars 2-0, 0-3

Final

Nakivubo SV v Shooting Stars 0-0, 0-3

CAF CUP — 1993

Preliminary round

First leg — January 22-24
Second leg — February 5-7
Ethiopia qualifiers v Rayon Sports (Rwa)
Desp. Travadores (CVI) v ASC Air Mauritanie (Mauritania)
Togo qualifiers v UDIB (GB)
Tourbillon (Chad) v Les Anges de Fatima (CAR)
Dinare (Les) v Young Ones (Nam)

First round

First leg — February 19-21
Second leg — March 5-7
Ethiopia qualifiers/Rayon Sport v Merreikh El Obayed (Sud)
Dinare/Young Ones v Profund Warriors (Zam)
Manzini Wanderers (Swa) v CAPS United (Zim)
Simba (Tan) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz)
Coffee SC (Uga) v Gor Mahia (Ken)
MDC United (Mal) v Hellenic (SA)
Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) v USMH (Alg)
FDA Forester (Lib) v Hearts of Oak (Gha)
Desportivo Travadores/ASC Air Mauritanie v ASFAG (Gui)
Zumunta (Niger) v ASFA Yennega (BF)
Tourbillon/Les Anges de Fatima v Canon Yaounde (Cam)
Zaire qualifiers v Atletico Sport Aviacao (Ang)
Ivory Coast qualifiers v Kambui Eagles (SL)
Nigeria qualifiers v Sigui de Kayes (Mali)
Petrosport (Con) v Benin qualifiers
Togo qualifiers/UDIB v Mbilinga (Gab)

Second round

First leg — May 21-23
Second leg — June 4-6
Dinane/Young Ones/Profund Warriors v Ethiopia qualifiers/Rayon Sports/Merreikh El Obayed
Simba/Ferroviario de Maputo v Manzini Wand./CAPS Utd
MDC United/Hellenic v Coffee SC/Gor Mahia
FDA Forester/Hearts of Oak v Jeanne d'Arc/USMH
Zumunta/ASFA Yennega v Desportivo Travadores/ASC Air Mauritanie/ASFAG
Zaire qualifiers/Atletico Sport Aviacao v Tourbillon/Les Anges de Fatima/Canon Yaounde
Nigeria qualifiers/Sigui de Kayes v Ivory Coast qualifiers/Kambu Eagles
Togo qualifiers/UDIB/Mbilinga v Petrosport/Benin qualifiers

Quarter-finals

September 3-5 & 17-19

Semi-finals

October 15-17 & 29-31

Final

November 12-14 & 26-28.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP — 1993

Preliminary round

First leg — February 5-7
Second leg February — 19-21
St George (Eth) v Malindi (Tan)
LCS Gunners (Bot) v Kaizer Chiefs (SA)
Kioyvu Sport (Rwa) v Bata Bullets (Mal)
Maflama (Les) v Sunrise SC (Mauritius)
Costa do Sol (Moz) v Ramblers (Nam)
Mbabane Highlanders (Swa) v AC Sotema (Mad)
Sporting Bissau (GB) v Etoile Filante (BF)
Djoliba (Mali) v ASC Sonader (Mauritania)
LPRC Oilers (Lib) v Togo qualifiers
Akonangui (EG) v TP USCA (CAR)
Primiero Agosto (Ang) v Benin qualifiers
ASAC Ndiambour (Sen) v Sporting Mindelense (CVI)
Sahel SC (Niger) v Tout Puissant Elec Sport (Chad)

First round

First leg — March 19-21
Second leg — April 2-4
St George/Malindi v Zamalek (Egy)
Nivoyu Sport/Bala Bullets v LCS Gunners/Kaiser Chiefs
Matlama/Sunrise v Al Hilal (Sud)
AFC Lepards (Ken) v Nkana Red Devils (Zam)
Nukivubo Sports Villa (Uga) v Vital 'O (Bur)
Mbabane Highlanders/AC Sotema v Black Aces (Zim)
Costa do Sol/Ramblers v Zaire qualifiers
Djoliba/ASC Sonader v ASEC Abidjan (IC)
KAC Marrakesh (Mor) v Horoya (Gui)
Sahel SC/Tout Puissant Elec Sport v Asante Kotoko (Gha)
Sporting Bissau/Etoile Filante v Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg)
Primiero Agosto/Benin qualifiers v Racing Bafoussam (Cam)
LPRC Oliers/Togo qualifiers v Club Africain (Tun)
AS Sogara (Gab) v Etoile du Congo (Con)
Okonangui/TP USCA v Stationary Stores (Nig)
ASC Ndiambour/Sporting Mindelense v Wydad Casablanca (Mor, holders)

Second round

First leg — May 14-16
Second leg — May 20-28
Kivoyu Sport/Bata Bullets/LCS Gunners/Kaizer Chiefs v Zamalek/St George/Malindi
AFC Leopards/Nkana Red Devils v Hatlama/Sunrise/El Hilal
Mhahana Highlanders/AC Sotema/Black Aces v Nakivubo Sports Villa/Vital 'O
Djoliba/ASC Sonader/ASEC Abidjan v Costa Do Sol/Ramblers/Zaire qualifiers
Sahel SC/Tout Pouissant Elec Sport/Asante Kotoko v KAC Marrakesh/Horoya
Primiero Agosto/Benin qualifiers/Racing Bafoussam v Sporting Bissau/Etoile Gilante/Mouloudia d'Oran
AS Sogara/Etoile du Congo v LPRC Oilers/Togo qualifiers/Club Africain
ASC Ndiambour/Sporting Mindelenese/Wydad Casablanca v Akonangui/TP USCA/Stationary Stores

Quarter-finals

September 3-5 & 17-19.

Semi-finals

October 15-17 & 29-31.

Final

November 26-28 & December 10-12.

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP — 1993

Preliminary round

First leg — February 5-7
Second leg — February 19-21
Liverpool (Nam) v GF Tafic (Bot)
Jomo Cosmos (SA) v Denver Sundowns (Swa)
Silver Strikers (Mal) v Arsenal (Les)
Pamba (Tan) v Mukura Victory (Rwa)
Tempete Mocaf (CAR) v Petro Atletico (Ang)
ASC SNIM (Mauritania) v Benfica (GB)
Togo qualifiers v Diamond Stars (SL)
Gazelle (Chad) v Ela Nguema (EG)
Hafia (Gui) v Stade Malien (Mali)

First round

First leg — March 12-14
Second leg — March 26-28
Zaire qualifiers v Liverpool/GF Tafic
CARA Brazzaville (Con) v Tempete Mocaf/Petro Atletico
Kabwe Warriors (Zam) v Prince Louis (Bur)
COSFAP (Mad) v Jomo Cosmos/Denver Sundowns
Clube de Gaza (Moz) v Silver Strikers/Arsenal
Al Ahly (Egy) v Pamba/Mukura Victory
Zimbabwe qualifiers v Kenya Breweries (Ken)
El Merreikh (Sud) v Express FC (Uga)
JS Kabylie (Alg) v ASC SNIM/Benfica
Benin qualifiers v Olympic (Niger)
Stade Tunisien (Tun) v Hafia/Stade Malien
Voradep (Gha) v US Goreenne (Sen)
Africa Sports (IC, holders) v NPA Anchors (Lib)
Delta (Gab) v Togo qualifiers/Diamond Stars
El Kanemi Warriors (Nig) v Gazelle/Ela Nguema
Olympic Myolye (Cam) v RCK (BF)

Second round

First leg — May 14-16
Second leg — May 28-30
Zaire qualifiers/Liverpool/GF Tafic/ v CARA Brazzaville/Tempete Mocaf/Petro Atletico
Kabwe Warriors/Prince Louis v COSFAP/Jomo Cosmos/Denver Sundowns
Clube de Gaza/Silver Strikers/Arsenal v Al Ahly/Pamba/Mukura Victory
Zimbabwe qualifiers/Kenya Brewers v El Merreikh/Express FC
JS Kabylie/ASC SNIM/Benfica v Benin qualifiers/Olympic
Stade Tunisien/Hafia/Stade Malien v Voradep/US Goreenne
Africa Sports/NPA Anchors v Delta/Togo qualifiers/Diamond Stars
El Kanemi Warriors/Gazelle/Ela Nguema v Olympic Mvolye/RCK

Semi-finals

October 15-17 & 29-31.

Final

November 19-21 & December 3-5

Newcomers OM take Cameroon Cup

A CLUB founded only three years ago by a millionaire arms dealer won this year's Cameroonian Cup final, contested by two Second Division teams.

Olympique Mvolye, whose owner Damas Ombga is one of the richest men in Cameroon, beat Diamant Yaounde 1-0 with a controversial goal a minute after half-time.

Stephen Tataw, captain of Olympique and of the national team, accelerated into the Diamant penalty area and fell.

The referee judged that he had been brought down, and Bert Ebwelle blasted in the penalty.

Tataw had been mugged a few days before the final by four armed men, who dragged him out of his car and landed punches on his head and face, but he was one of the best players in a poor match.

Strangely, the Man of the Match award went to Jang Sunday, captain of the losing team. Even Sunday admitted being surprised by the decision.

This disappointing final reflected the decline in Cameroonian football since the 1990 World Cup. Diamant were relegated after four teams finished equal on 22 points, while Olympique failed to gain promotion though Ombga had spent vast amounts to lure internationals to his club.

Olympique Mvolye have no tradition of their own and so have adopted that of Olympique Marseille: Ombga deliberately chose the initials OM, and his side play in the same white-and-blue kit as the French champions.

Mvolye is the village where Ombga was born.

Despite Cameroon's decline, the Lions are well placed to qualify for both the World Cup and the African Nations' Cup of 1994. Cameroon took three points from their first two Nations' Cup qualifying matches, and in their first World Cup match they beat Swaziland 5-0.

Away matches against their two main rivals in the group, Liberia and Zaire, were both postponed due to political turmoil in those countries, so if the bloodshed continues Cameroon will walk a very easy path indeed to the second round of the qualifying stage.

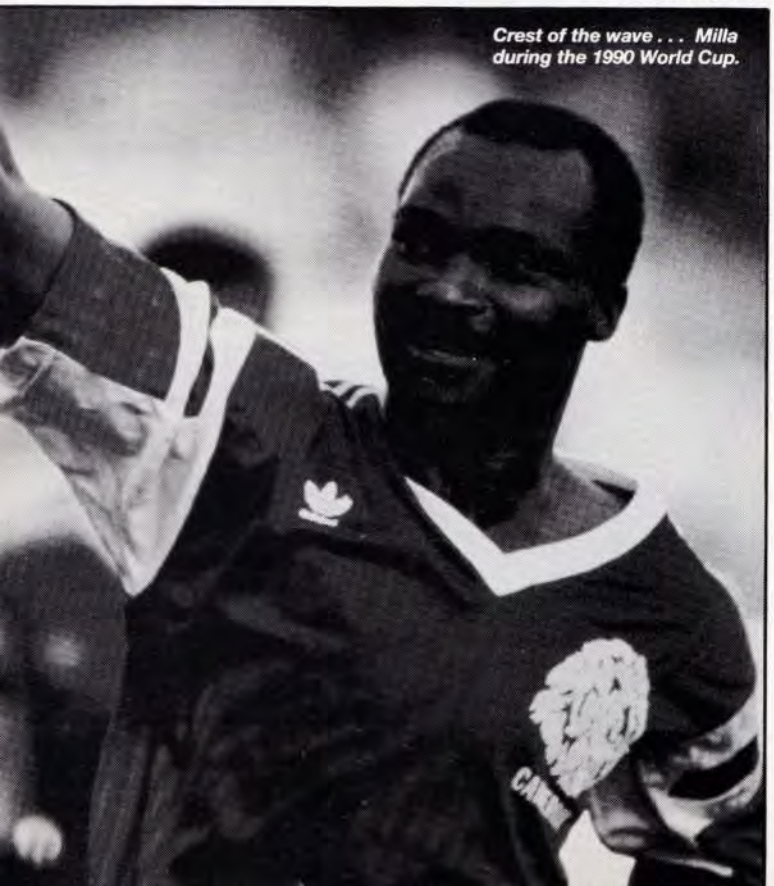
Roger Milla, now administrative director of the national team, says that the disappointing fourth place at the African Nations' Cup was partially due to this absence. "Without Pele Brazil won matches, but the presence of Pele in a team motivated the other players. My presence had the same effect."

Milla still sometimes trains with the Lions, and jokes that he is keeping fit for 1994, but when serious he says that this time his retirement is for real.

He now regrets his absence from the Wembley friendly against England in February 1991, when he refused to play unless he received a special fee.

Milla now says that he was "manipulated" to make the demand, and added: "This type of attitude does not develop sport. When directors do things in their own personal interest it is catastrophic for a country. By cooperating with England we could have improved our football federation, the standard of our players and even our sports infrastructure."

SIMON **KUPER**



Crest of the wave . . . Milla during the 1990 World Cup.

100 AFRICA'S 100 BEST EXPORTS

Charles Musonda of Anderlecht.

BELGIUM

Name	Country	Club
Musonda	Zambia	Anderlecht
Lamptey	Ghana	Anderlecht
N'Gombo	Zambia	Beershot
Okpara	Nigeria	Beershot
Prince Polley	Ghana	Beershot
Amokachi	Nigeria	Brugge
Affoh	Togo	Charleroi
Vavadio	Zambia	Charleroi
N'Sumbu	Zambia	Ekeren
N'Gapy	Congo	Genk
Augustine	Nigeria	Gent
Balenga	Zambia	Gent
Ikpeba	Nigeria	Liege
Etim	Nigeria	Lokeren
Siasia	Nigeria	Lokeren
Osondu	Nigeria	RWDM
Emeralo	Nigeria	RWDM
Kimgambo	Zaire	St. Truiden
N'Wosu	Nigeria	St. Truiden

SPAIN

Name	Country	Club
Badou Zaki	Morocco	Majorca
Hassam	Morocco	Majorca
Makanaki	Cameroon	Malaga
Wilfred	Nigeria	Rayo Vallecano
N'Kono	Cameroon	Sabadell
Adepoju	Nigeria	Castilla

PORTUGAL

Name	Country	Club
Bobo	Guinea Bissau	Boavista
Ricky	Nigeria	Boavista
Jojo	Mozambique	Boavista
Mateus	Mozambique	Boavista
N'Dinga	Zaire	Guimaraes
Basaula	Zaire	Guimaraes
Ziad	Tunisia	Guimaraes
Tauofik	Tunisia	Guimaraes
Armando	Guinea Bissau	Farense
Hajry	Morocco	Farense
Makkukuka	Zaire	Setubal
Savvedra	Angola	Chaves
Du	Guinea Bissau	Estoril
Bouderbala	Morocco	Estoril
Forbs	Guinea Bissau	Braga
Ricardo	Guinea Bissau	P. Ferreira
Tueba	Zaire	Gil Vicente
Mangonga	Zaire	Gil Vicente
Nogueira	Guinea Bissau	Gil Vicente
Medane	Algeria	Famalicao
Vinha	Cape Verde Is.	Salgueiros
Aziz	Morocco	Espinho
Menad	Algeria	Belenenses
Yekini	Nigeria	Setubal

Ricky Owubokiri of Boavista.

HOLLAND

Name	Country	Club
Mike Obiku	Nigeria	Feyenoord
Kalusha Bwalya	Zambia	PSV
Mohamed Sylla	Guinea	Willem II Tilburg

FRANCE

Name	Country	Club
Fofana	Ivory Coast	Monaco
Desailly	Ghana	Marseille
Abedi Pele	Ghana	Marseille
Baffoe	Ghana	Metz
Weah	Liberia	Paris SG
N'Doram	Chad	Nantes
Makelele	Zaire	Nantes
Ferhaoui	Algeria	Montpellier
Bell	Cameroon	St Etienne
Aubemeyang	Gabon	Le Havre
Tiehi	Ivory Coast	Le Havre
Otokore	Ivory Coast	Auxerre
Kana-Biyik	Cameroon	Le Havre
Keshi	Nigeria	Strasbourg
El Haddaoui	Morocco	Lens
Dangbeto	Benin	Caen
James Debah	Liberia	Lyon
Adjovi-Bocco	Benin	Lens
Arsene	Madagascar	Lens
Omar Dieng	Senegal	Lille
Berkana	Morocco	Metz
Abovo	Ivory Coast	Monaco
Samassi	Ivory Coast	Lyon
Pagal	Cameroon	St. Etienne
Anziani	Algeria	Toulon
Simba	Guinea	Paris SG
Aboubacar Camara	Guinea	St Etienne
El Khebir	Nigeria	Valenciennes
Djetou	Ivory Coast	Strasbourg
Jbrahima BA	Senegal	Le Havre
Samba N'Diaye	Senegal	Lille

Youssouf Fofana of Monaco.

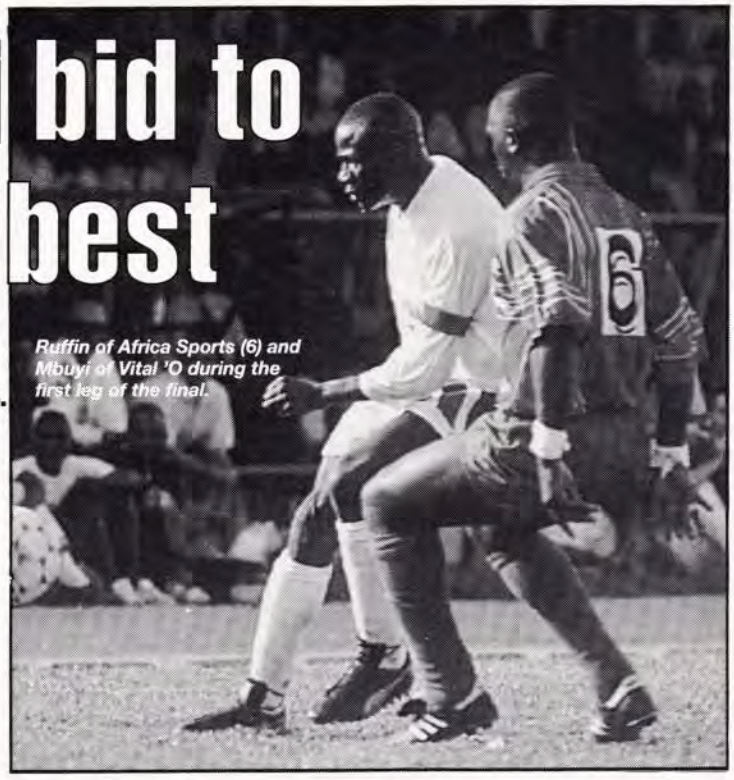
ENGLAND

Name	Country	Club
Ndlovu	Zimbabwe	Coventry
Cuam Forrest	Zimbabwe	Nottm. Forest
Iorfa	Nigeria	QPR
Bart-Williams	Sierra Leone	Sheffield Weds
Nayim	Morocco	Tottenham

GERMANY

Name	Country	Club
Okocha	Nigeria	Eintracht Frankfurt
Yeboah	Ghana	Eintracht Frankfurt
Bachirou Salou	Togo	Borussia Mg
Ali Ibrahim	Ghana	Wattenscheid 09
Souleyman Sane	Senegal	Wattenscheid 09

Burundi bid to join the best



Ruffin of Africa Sports (6) and Mbuyi of Vital 'O during the first leg of the final.

BURUNDI are the latest sensation in African soccer, with a surprise victory over Ghana's Black Stars in the World Cup qualifiers and a team in the final of the African Cup-winners' Cup.

Their national team, the "Intamba", had not played an international match for 10 years before last June, but have beaten Gabon, Congo, and Ghana, head the standings in their African Nations' Cup qualifying group, and have all but destroyed Ghana's chances of going to the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

At club level, Vital 'O become the first Burundian team to reach the final of one of Africa's three continental club competitions, although they lost to Africa Sports from Ivory Coast.

But in Bujumbura, the country's picturesque capital on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, everyone wonders what all the fuss is about.

"It's no real surprise," says Dominque Niyonzima, who, at the tender age of 28, serves as national technical director of the Federation du Football du Burundi.

"Our clubs have regularly been reaching the quarter-finals and semi-finals of African competitions. I always knew we had the potential," said Niyonzima. He and his staff are responsible for the sudden turnabout.

They took over in mid-1992 and immediately began an ambitious programme to revive football in the tiny east African country, where the population is only 5.62 million.

Burundi's national team were revived, entries made for both the qualifiers for the African Nations' Cup and World Cup finals, and a first friendly fixture organised against Azingo Stars of Gabon. Burundi were surprise winners in that match, too, and have not looked back since.

The new approach has come in tandem with a large injection of money from the reform-minded government of Major Pierre Buyoya, who is using sport as a unity process between the antagonistic tribes of Tutsis and Hutus.

The Tutsis, who make up only 14 per cent of the population, have ruled the country since independence from Belgium in July 1962, keeping power away from the hands of the majority Hutus.

"The president has realised that through sport he can unite our people into one nation and that's why we have got a lot of support from the government," says Dr Rugambara.

"We want a lot more money from them, but it has been a good start."

On the football pitch there is a lively league in the country, traditionally dominated by clubs from the capital such as Vital 'O, Inter and Prince Louis.

There is no racial bias in the team selections and the national squad have players from both tribes.

The coach is Ribakare Baudoiun, who spent most of his playing career in Germany.

A Russian, Alexandre Rakitsiki, is assistant coach, and Vital 'O are coached by an Algerian, Rashid Sheradi.

Baudoiun is confident that Burundi can qualify for the finals of the 1994 African Nations' Cup in Tunisia. The team top their qualifying group, having beaten Congo at home and then forcing a draw in Guinea.

"I have a team who are fully self-motivated," says the coach.

"We don't have money to pay them, so they play for themselves and their families and there is no better motivation than this."

MARK **GLEESON**

Ready for action . . . Burundi's Vital 'O squad.

Butler quits after a double

THERE is great enthusiasm in South Africa for all that is best in South American soccer, but teams led by English coaches ended 1-2-3 in the NSL Castle League.

Kaizer Chiefs (Jeff Butler), finally overhauled Hellenic (Johnny Byrne, below right) to win by three points and qualify to play in the African Champions' Cup.

Wits University (Terry Paine), finished six points further back, in third place.

Chiefs also won the national cup competition, the BobSave Superbowl, beating Jomo Cosmos, coached by ex-Charlton player Roy Matthews, in front of 42,000 spectators in Johannesburg.

Trevor Mtimkula netted the winner in the second half of extra time, Shane MacGregor and Jomo's Chris Molebatsi having scored earlier.

Jeff Butler had a dramatic year. He was appointed national team coach and then forced to resign, through media pressure. He was reinstated at Chiefs, led them to the double, and then incurred a substantial fine for running on the pitch. He then quit the job and returned to England.

Kaizer Motaung, the club's owner, appointed former player Sergio Dos Santos to lead the inaugural challenge in Africa. Dos Santos had surprisingly lost his job the previous week, at Cape Town Spurs. He had taken them to tenth in their first season back, after winning the 1991 Second Division OK League and NRB League Cup.

New national team coach Augusto Palacios gathered 42 players for intensive training in preparation for the friendly in Gaborone against Botswana and the return World Cup qualifier in Johannesburg against Nigeria.

Stephen Khompela, Fairways Stars' defender and national team captain, is the Player's Player of the Year. George Dearnaley (Amazulu) and Mark Williams (Hellenic) tied with 20 goals each as leading scorers.

BARRY **BAKER**

FIRST DIVISION — Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaizer Chiefs	42	24	12	6	70	22	60
Hellenic	42	23	11	8	82	39	57
Wits University	42	20	11	11	53	29	51
Orlando Pirates	42	21	8	13	47	41	50
Jomo Cosmos	42	18	11	13	64	49	47
Mamelodi Sundowns	42	16	16	10	62	49	47
Witbank Aces	42	17	13	12	47	38	47
Lightbody's Santos	42	15	17	10	46	41	47
Moroka Swallows	42	17	11	14	53	46	45
Cape Town Spurs	42	13	17	12	47	43	43
Fairway Stars	42	15	13	14	40	40	43
Ratanang	42	14	15	13	40	40	43
Halls Dynamos	42	14	15	13	53	56	43
Bloemfontein Celtic	42	12	17	13	54	49	41
Amazulu	42	13	15	14	47	48	41
Pretoria City	42	16	7	19	47	53	39
Umtata Bucks	42	12	14	16	33	42	38
Highlands Park	42	13	11	18	36	38	37
Crusaders United	42	11	13	18	34	58	35
Vaal Reefs Stars	42	12	10	20	32	53	34
Manning Rangers	42	9	11	22	40	58	29
Dangerous Darkies	42	1	5	36	27	122	7

1992 EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN SENIOR CHALLENGE CUP (Tanzania)

UGANDANS KEEP TROPHY

UGANDA claimed their third East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup title in four years and won the trophy outright in a tournament of many surprises.

It was a remarkable win for the Cranes, who had to do without key players from champion club Nakivubo Sports Villa, competing in the final of the CAF Cup, and striker Majid Musisi, now playing in France.

A cash crisis forced Uganda to withdraw from the World Cup qualifiers and limit their international involvement, but with Tanzania just a ferry trip away across Lake Victoria, their second string made the journey to the annual two-week tournament in search of a major morale-booster.

Late entrants Zambia were overwhelming favourites but failed to hold on to their title, and the Tanzanian B team, called the Kakakuona XI, reached the final.

Kenya kept up their dismal record of failure in the tournament and have now gone nine editions without a trophy win, leaving coach Mohammed Kheri's job on the line ahead of the World Cup qualifying campaign against Guinea.

The main Tanzanian team also did not get past the opening round, newcomers Seychelles were horribly outclassed and Sudan withdrew at the last moment, incurring a US $1,000 fine and possible future ban.

The tournament, played in Arusha and Mwanza, had an ominous start. The floodlights failed in the opening match, between Tanzania and Seychelles, with the hosts leading 3-1 after 58 minutes. That meant a replay, and disruption of the schedule.

Ineffectual performances by Kenya and Tanzania added to the gloom, and there were some refereeing disputes.

But the event ended on a high note with the Ugandan victory against the odds, defeating Zambia in the semi-final on penalties and then overcoming the Tanzanians to take the trophy. Veteran striker Issa Sekatawa scored the winner 13 minutes from time and there were rapturous celebrations in Kampala when the team returned.

RESULTS

GROUP A *(Arusha)*

KENYA 1 (Nandwa)
UGANDA 1 (Sekalie)

TANZANIA B 3 (Yousuf 24, Michael 33, Gonzalez 89 o.g.)
SEYCHELLES 0

KENYA 2 (Magongo 40, Jeoffrey 42 o.g.)
SEYCHELLES 1 (Judy 51)

TANZANIA B 1 (Razak 48)
UGANDA 1 (Sswimba 13)

SEYCHELLES 2 (Moshel 11, Rose 19)
UGANDA 5 (Mayanja 2, Ssemogerere 48 pen, Chembe 51, Ssekatawa 78, Yassim 88)

TANZANIA B 0
KENYA 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UGANDA	3	1	2	0	7	4	4
TANZANIA B	3	1	2	0	4	1	4
Kenya	3	1	2	0	3	2	4
Seychelles	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

GROUP B *(Mwanza)*

ETHIOPIA 3 (Asnaka 3)
ZANZIBAR 0

TANZANIA 1 (Felician 71 pen)
MALAWI 1 (Chimodzi 69)

ETHIOPIA 2 (Melyon 44 pen, 79 pen)
ZAMBIA 3 (Chikwalawala 7, Chomba 49, Patrick Banda 63)

TANZANIA 0
ZANZIBAR 1 (Lambo 48)

MALAWI 1 (Mtwali 4)
ZAMBIA 0

TANZANIA 2 (Mwamba 4, Felician 43)
ETHIOPIA 1 (Asnaka 56)

ZAMBIA 8 (Mutale 8, 57, 58, Banda 3, 75, Ankinka 44, 55, Ibrahim 37 o.g.)
ZANZIBAR 0

ETHIOPIA 1 (Kabede 64)
MALAWI 2 (Waya 21, 51)

TANZANIA 1 (Lunyamila 11)
ZAMBIA 2 (Mutale 33, 56)

MALAWI 3 (Mtwali 33, Malesa 70, Lungu 89)
ZANZIBAR 1 (Chimodzi 30 o.g.)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MALAWI	4	3	1	0	7	3	7
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	13	4	6
Tanzania	4	1	1	2	6	5	3
Ethiopia	4	1	0	3	6	7	2
Zanzibar	4	1	0	3	2	14	2

SEMI-FINALS
In Mwanza
UGANDA 0
ZAMBIA 0
Uganda won 4-2 on pens

In Arusha
TANZANIA B 1 (Chambua 60)
MALAWI 0

THIRD PLACE
In Mwanza
MALAWI 0
ZAMBIA 4 (Mutale 2, Banda 2)

FINAL
In Mwanza
TANZANIA B 0
UGANDA 1 (Sekatawa 77)
Tanzania B: Katuba; Wakitope, Charles, Lupindo, Kabunda, Hoza, Mutekere (Charley), Chabua, Yondani, Michael, Moredi.
Uganda: Kajoba; Ssemogerere, Karumbila, Kabugo, Semaligwe, Sekalie, Aloro (Fred Tamale), Ssimbwa, Ssekatawa, Mayanja, Buwembo.

PREVIOUS FINALS

1973	Uganda v Tanzania	2-1
1974	Tanzania v Uganda	1-1
	Tanzania won 5-3 on pens	
1975	Kenya v Malawi	0-0
	Kenya won 4-3 on pens	
1976	Uganda v Zambia	2-0
1977	Uganda v Zambia	0-0
	Uganda won 5-3 on pens	
1978	Malawi v Zambia	3-2
1979	Malawi v Kenya	3-2
1980	Sudan v Tanzania	1-0
1981	Kenya v Tanzania	1-0
1982	Kenya v Uganda	1-1
	Kenya won 5-3 on pens	
1983	Kenya v Zimbabwe	1-0
1984	Zambia v Malawi	0-0, 3-0
1985	Zimbabwe v Kenya	2-0
1986	No competition	
1987	Ethiopia v Zimbabwe	1-1
	Ethiopia won 5-4 on pens	
1988	Malawi v Zambia	3-1
1989	Uganda v Malawi	3-3
	Uganda won 2-1 on pens	
1990	Uganda v Sudan	2-0
1991	Zambia v Kenya	2-0

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QUESTION Johan Cruyff was undoubtedly one of the world's most skilful and technically brilliant players. Unfortunately, his premature retirement from the Dutch national team before the1978 World Cup in Argentina, restricted him to **38, 48** or **58** full caps for Holland?

Boca earn half a crown

Concentration . . . Boca show their attacking style.

POPULAR Boca Juniors won their first title in 11 years — or shall we say half a title because it was only the opening tournament of the 1992-93 National Championship.

This could be the poorest title-winning line-up in memory . . . but then there was no single outstanding team in the tournament.

Argentina's two most popular clubs were the strongest candidates, but as both stumbled through the final weeks, losing unexpected points, it seemed to be a case of which would collapse first to let the other go past the post.

Boca Juniors made tremendously hard work of scoring even a single goal in a match at times. Ten wins, seven of them somewhat luckily by one goal, plus seven draws and two defeats tell half the story.

In Navarro Montoya they have an outstanding goalkeeper, who set a club record by going 825 minutes unbeaten. Their defence — containing one promising newcomer, Medero, who replaced injured international Simon in the final weeks — gave little away, though at times they made elementary mistakes.

The rest was grit, fighting spirit and a tremendous following, with the attack depending mainly on two veteran internationals, Argentinian Marcico and Paraguayan Cabanas.

At one stage during the season River Plate shone like their best teams of old, but they were very erratic.

Striker Ramon Diaz lost form, Uruguayan Ruben Da Silva showed only in flashes, and Ramon Medina Bello's continued excellence was not enough.

The end was ugly. River and Boca were due to start their final matches at 8pm, after the other games had finished, although the police had advised them not to play at night, to curb hooliganism. TV money talked and both games had to start at exactly the same time to avoid a possible advantage for one or the other.

Boca, leading by two points, needed a draw at home to San Martin of Tucuman to clinch the title. If they lost and River Plate won away to Argentinos Juniors, River would take the title on goal difference.

The FC Oeste stadium was too small for such an important clash and, sure enough, trouble between rival fans inside and outside, with police using tear-gas, resulted in a pitch invasion and a 70-minute delay.

When the game started, Ramon Diaz gave River a 1-0 lead, but at half-time there were further crowd problems, an attempt to burn the stadium and the inevitable decision: no further play.

At Boca Juniors, the referee waited for a while to comply with the rules, but eventually started the game. To the surprise of the packed stadium in a mood for celebrations, San Martin scored after 19 minutes, but Boca debutant Benetti equalised just after the break with "the goal that won the title".

From then on both teams played as if it was all fixed up.

After the match fans broke on to the field — as is traditional — and virtually stripped their idols to get shirts, boots, pants and socks. They also attacked police trying to keep order.

So once again an Argentine championship had an unsavoury end. At the two matches 179 people were detained by police and over 200 injured, including 28 officers.

The 179 were free by next day — Argentina still has not attempted to deal with hooliganism — and the second half of the River Plate-Argentinos match will have to be played at some future date, because the latter are involved in the relegation struggle.

Deportivo Espanol goalkeeper Pedro Catalano finished the tournament with an ever-present string of 261 games. He is 42, but expects to continue the run when play restarts after the summer break.

Racing Club parted company with coach Humberto Grondona, son of Argentine FA chief Julio, and will start the closing championship with a new coach . . . but they will not be alone.

ERIC WEIL

Celebrations . . . Boca Juniors greet their first title for 11 years.

Clubs shine as national team fade

SOUTH AMERICA'S three major club trophies have all gone to Brazilian clubs.

Cruzeiro beat Argentina's Racing Club to retain the Super Cup, following Sao Paulo FC's victory in the Libertadores Cup and Atletico Mineiro's success in the newly-instituted CONMEBOL Cup.

This Brazilian superiority at club level is not easy to understand when Argentina have been unbeaten at full international level for two years and Uruguay could rank second internationally by virtue of their two victories over Brazil during the year.

Many leading players are based with European clubs, so that international line-ups of the three leading South American nations often include many players not playing in that country, and comparison between club and country is difficult.

Argentina did not have one outstanding club giving consistently good performances during the season. Constant team and coach changes — not generally the wisest — left Argentinian teams struggling even against clubs from smaller countries.

Smaller Uruguay, comparatively worse hit by the exodus of players, were in a similar position.

The fifth edition of the Super Cup will be remembered for violence and poor discipline as well as for continual protests from clubs about poor refereeing — in some cases justified.

In the tournament's 28 games, 23 players were sent off and 88 booked with six sent off in the two-leg final.

Brazilian players had a tough time in Argentina, both those of Flamengo and Cruzeiro being attacked by home fans before and after their matches. One result was the suspension of River Plate's stadium for six months.

One from four . . . Cruzeiro celebrate a goal against Racing Club.

Paraguay

THE championship in Paraguay went to a three-match play-off before Cerro Porteno eventually retained the title.

They drew 2-2 and 0-0 with Libertad, and then — with away goals not being counted — they won 5-0.

Cerro Porteno had eliminated Olimpia in the semi-finals, scoring the only goal in the second leg. The first match ended goalless after a string of incidents, with both goalkeepers struck by objects from the crowd.

Libertad won their semi-final 4-3 on aggregate against Sportivo Luqueno.

Olimpia had a poor season by their standards, losing in the Super Cup and the new CONMEBOL Cup, but they had won the early-season national championship and so qualify again for the Libertadores Cup.

Coach Roberto Perfumo's contract was renewed, somewhat surprisingly in view of the overall record.

Perfumo promptly released seven of his older players, including Romerito, Battaglia and Samaniego, as well as Amarilla, who was on the point of retiring anyway.

Uruguay

NACIONAL had lost two games running before soccer in Uruguay was stopped for a month by a players strike, but they ran away with the title once play resumed.

They clinched it with three games to go, when beating eternal rivals, Penarol 1-0. Panamanian Julio Dely Valdez scored his 13th and most important goal of the season — he was the championship's top scorer — to give Nacional their 24th title, but their first since 1983.

Nacional, coached by Roberto Fleitas, also were well served by Argentinian Antonio Vidal Gonzalez, the season's second highest scorer with eight.

Penarol, leading title-winners with 29, changed their coach for the third time this season and the tenth in 10 years, when Juan Faccio replaced their former international goalkeeper, Roque Maspoli.

As in Uruguay, so it was in Ecuador. Nacional, the club backed by the armed forces and the only one to use only home-born players, won the First Division title.

They drew 1-1 in the second leg of the final against Barcelona, having won the home leg 2-1.

Farewell, Cesar

CESAR MENOTTI took the Mexican national team into the final round of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying zone and then resigned for the second time . . . and this time for good.

Menotti, who took Argentina to World Cup victory in 1978, said he was tired of continual differences with Mexican soccer officials. "Every day and every step was a battle," he said.

The last straw appeared to be when Mexico agreed to postpone the final qualifying games from January to August this year.

"The team will be burnt out by then — they take part in the North American (Gold Cup) and South American (Copa America) championships not long before," said Menotti. "And apart from that, nobody asked my opinion."

Then FIFA refused the postponement anyway, but Menotti would not stay.

Menotti had been plagued by changes to the FA committee, squabbles over TV contracts for the national team's games, and bonus payments for the players. He also had his own financial differences over tax payments.

In the CONCACAF zone's second round of World Cup qualifying, the eight remaining countries played in two groups with the top two of each advancing to the third and final round. These were Mexico and Honduras from group A, and El Salvador and Canada from group B. Mexico appeared to be the strongest team, scoring 22 goals in six games.

Their only defeat was 2-0 away to Costa Rica, who failed to qualify, and their only other dropped point was in a 1-1 draw in Honduras. By then both teams had made sure of a third-round place.

The four-team final round involves home and away games, with the winner qualifying for the 1994 finals.

The runner-up and the Oceania zone winner (Australia or New Zealand) meet, with the winner of that facing the runner-up of South American group A for another place in the finals.

Coach Falcao's resignation from America was followed by the club's appointment of Miguel Angel Lopez almost at the same time as signing another Argentinian, international Oscar Ruggeri, from Italy's Ancona.

The excessive pollution in Mexico City caused breathing problems for Ruggeri, but he scored in his debut — a 1-0 win against Puebla.

Striker Hugo Sanchez, who joined America this season, may not last long. He has had a running battle of words with officials, seems to be fed up with Mexican soccer, and wants to return to Spain.

Cruz Azul fired their Uruguayan coach, Nelson Acosta — the fifth foreign coach to go this season.

Edgardo Codesal, the Mexican referee who gave Germany the controversial penalty with which they beat Argentina 1-0 in the 1990 World Cup Final, has been named president of the Mexican referees committee. Miguel Angel Brinisi, Guatemala's national team coach, resigned on the same day as Menotti in Mexico, because of non-payment of fees.

ERIC **WEIL**

Two from 11 . . . Hermosillo scores Mexico's second against St Vincent.

Diego tops poll

DIEGO MARADONA was voted top South American player, for the sixth time, in the annual poll conducted by Venezuela's *El Mundo* paper among the continent's soccer writers. Thirteen of the top 20 are playing abroad.

No.	Player	Country	Club	Pts
1	Maradona	Argentina	Sevilla	32
2	Bebeto	Brazil	La Coruna	31
3	Rai	Brazil	Sao Paulo	25
4	Batistuta	Argentina	Fiorentina	24
5	Caniggia	Argentina	Roma	21
6	Fonseca	Uruguay	Napoli	18
7	Romario	Brazil	PSV Eindhoven	17
8	Cabanas	Paraguay	Boca Juniors	14
9	Zamorano	Chile	Real Madrid	13
10	Muller	Brazil	Sao Paulo	10

The highest team in the World

CONTRARY to common belief, the Hernando Siles Stadium in La Paz, Bolivia, is not the highest in the world where First Division teams play.

The Hernan Siles, home of current First Division champions Bolivar — and much feared by foreign teams having to go there for Libertadores Cup matches — is 3,617 metres above sea level. But that is a lot less than the 4,350 metres of Cerro de Pasco in Peru where one of that country's 16 First Division teams, Union Minas, have their ground.

Cerro de Pasco is Peru's highest mining town, with a population of 258,000.

It is said to have existed since the time of the Inca empire, and in 1639, when under Spanish rule, the King of Spain bestowed upon it the title of Royal City of Minas. The town is in the centre of Peru, close to a volcano, Nudo de Pasco.

Union Minas, who won promotion last season, have their Daniel Alcides Carrion Stadium there and are virtually unbeatable because rival teams are not used to the altitude.

On the other hand, UM did not do as well in away matches, and have changed coaches twice this season because of their erratic performances. They were eighth in the final standings of the 16-team First Division.

Teams from the lowlands have quite a problem at other venues in Peru, when visiting Universidad Tecnica in Cajamarca (2.750m high), Melgar FC in Arequipa (2.335m) and Cienciano in Cuso (3,339m).

Union Minas are on top

Over in Chile, Santiago Wanderers are celebrating their centenary — and there is something curious both about their name and their colours.

The club are not based in Santiago but in Valparaiso, Chile's main port, where soccer was first played in the country — brought by sailors from British ships.

Old boys of British schools in the town formed the club and the name was chosen in honour of these sailors.

The colours chosen then were white jerseys and black shorts, but today the shirts are dark green, with white shorts. At the turn of the century a playing kit was ordered from England via a sailor, but he made a mistake and the colours have remained green until this day.

Santiago Wanderers won the First Division title for the first time in 1958 and again 10 years later with what was considered the club's best-ever team. This second title put them into the Libertadores Cup in 1969 for the only time.

Elias Figueroa, arguably Chile's best player, was born in Valparaiso and made his First Division debut with the club when only 17.

ERIC **WEIL**

Back home . . . Marco Figueroa.

Cali first in thrilling finish

AMERICA CALI are the 1992 Colombian champions, regaining the title they lost to Nacional Medellin in 1991. It's their eighth title, all gained since 1979.

Nacional's position as runner-up was enough to earn them a place in the 1993 version of the Copa Libertadores, while third-placed Deportivo Cali earned a berth in the Copa CONMEBOL. Junior Barranquilla finished fourth.

Deportivo almost managed to break the expected dominance of America and Nacional, while creating the best finish to a season since the present format was adopted in 1989.

With two games to go Deportivo were two points clear of America, with Nacional another point adrift.

A win over Nacional in Medellin would have wrapped up a place in the Copa Libertadores, and quite possibly the title as well.

They lost, 3-2, while America defeated Junior in Cali — thus setting up the final fixture of the season, America versus Deportivo, to decide the champions.

Nacional duly won, 2-0, to finish with eight points, but America defeated Deportivo 3-1 in an emotional match to become champions with nine. Despite thier fine season, Deportivo finished with seven points, in third place.

America's title was the first as a coach for Francisco Maturana — not bad for someone in charge for less than six months. Although not an all-Colombian outfit, the side reflected the familiar Maturana pattern, with a short passing style.

Atletico Huila created something of a surprise by decisively winning Division B, and automatic promotion.

The club are from the city of Neiva, a sizeable outpost south-west of the Bogota, and primarily known as a coffee growing area.

A mark of the potential is the 15,000 attendance for their final home game, but without changes they will find the going hard in the top flight.

Real Cartagena finally decided against folding, despite huge losses, but were relegated. Ex-Santa Fe coach Hector Cespedes has been hired to take them back up.

Another coach with a new job is Norberto Peluffo, at Bucaramanga. Peluffo, a Colombian international in the 1980s, had been reserve coach. He replaces Humberto "Tucho" Ortiz, who not only had been the longest-serving coach in the professional ranks (almost three years!) but had turned the club into fringe title contenders.

Ortiz, however, had been at odds with the club management.

Maturana now has another post to occupy his mind, that of national coach. Such is the curious game of internal politics at the Colombian FA that the other major contender for the job was another former holder, Luis "Chiui" Garcia — who failed to retain the post after the 1991 Copa America.

The CFA have lined up a series of games, including some in Colombia, and Bogota in particular. Colombia won nine home games in a row under Maturana, but have not played in thier own country since 1989.

KEITH **SMITH**

Back in charge . . . Francisco Maturana.

Chile

COBRELOA, from the mining town of Calama, won the Chilean title for the fifth time.

They had a two-point lead over Colo Colo, champions for the past three seasons.

Cobreloa, who started with two defeats, went through 26 games unbeaten at home in the dry, dust-whirling climate 2,500 metres above sea-level.

They were the youngest team in the division, although they still field Hector Puebla, Juan Covarrubias and Mario Osben from their 1988 team.

They brought back several outstanding players from abroad — Marco Figueroa, Edgardo Fuentes and Hugo Gonzalez (who had been playing in Mexico) and Jaime Vera from Greece.

But no sooner had they won the title than Jose Sulantay — named as coach of the year in Chile — resigned because the club would not approve a new contract.

Colo Colo's Anibal Gonzalez was top scorer with 24 goals after a sensational finish.

He hit four in his sometimes erratic team's 5-3 win over Union Espanola in the next-to-last game, and five in their 6-0 win over Palestino in the last.

Juan Carlos Almada (Universidad Catolica, 20) and Carlos De Luca (O'Higgins 17) were second and third.

Former Chilean national team coach Luis Santibanez was sacked by Everton, but the directors had to change their minds when the players clamoured for his return.

Sao Paulo triumph yet again

TELE SANTANA'S Sao Paulo, holders of the Libertadores Cup and World Club Cup, won yet another title by beating Palmerias in the Sao Paulo State Final.

They won the first leg 4-2, then made the long journey to Tokyo to beat Barcelona.

On their return nearly 112,000 fans crammed the Morumbi Stadium to see the second leg against Palmerias.

Goals by Muller and Cerezo ensured the third title, with Zinho's reply coming in the final minute. Vasco da Gama had earlier won the Rio State Championship, finishing unbeaten.

In contrast to Sao Paulo, attendances in the Rio event have been very poor.

Even the Flamengo-Fluminense derby match drew a mere 3,672.

Vasco's players and officials dedicated the title to Roberto Dinamita, a key man even at the age of 38. He retired on a high note to become a Rio councillor, having been chosen at a recent election.

There was a scandal on the last day of the season when Bangu and America of Rio, both threatened with relegation, played each other.

All matches were due to start at the same time, for obvious reasons, but this one began 75 minutes late.

The Bangu coach broke down and there was a pitch invasion with damage to one of the goals.

Even after the teams came out there was a further hold-up — both were wearing the same colours.

Predictably the match ended 1-1, which suited both teams, who went through the motions to chants of "It's a fix!" from the fans.

No action was taken . . . because the authorities could not prove that any of the incidents had been deliberately caused.

Veteran Junior was sent off, for the first time in his career, after protesting too violently at a referee's decision.

Junior, now 38 but still a key member of the Flamengo squad, could have been banned for a year if the maximum sentence had been imposed, but the authorities took his good record into account and let him off with a one-match suspension.

ERIC **WEIL**

Celebrating . . . Muller of Sao Paulo (above).

Retiring . . . Dinamita of Vasco Da Gama (below).

TABLES

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	21	14	4	3	44	21	32
Danubio	21	8	8	5	24	18	24
Penarol	20	9	5	7	28	22	23
River Plate	21	8	7	6	30	23	23
Bella Vista	22	8	7	7	25	22	23
Defensor	21	7	8	6	23	20	22
Wanderers	21	7	8	6	20	20	22
Racing Club	22	4	14	4	16	17	22
Liverpool	21	5	10	6	15	23	20
Progreso	22	5	10	7	20	30	20
Cerro	21	3	12	6	18	22	18
Rentistas	21	6	5	10	22	29	17
Central Espanol	21	2	7	12	17	33	11

Nacional champions

PARAGUAY
First Division final round (final)

Group A: 1) Libertad 6.50 pts; 2) Olimpia 4.75; 3) Nacional 2.25; 4) Guarani 1.25. Group B: 1) Cerro Porteno 5; 2) Sportivo Luquenco 3.75; 3) Presidente Hayes 3; 4) Atletico Colegiales 2.50.

Including bonus points obtained by finishing among top four in two previous rounds. Top two of each group qualify for semi-finals).

COLOMBIA
Final round (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	6	4	1	1	11	6	9
Nacional	6	3	2	1	11	8	8
Dep. Cali	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
At. Junior	6	0	0	6	3	11	0

BRAZIL
State championships

Rio de Janeiro (Guanabara State)
2nd round (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco	13	11	2	0	27	8	24 (42)
Flamengo	13	8	2	3	23	8	18 (34)
Fluminense	13	7	3	3	19	11	17 (33)
Botafogo	13	4	7	2	18	15	15 (30)
Americano	13	4	7	2	11	9	15 (22)
America (TR)	13	5	5	3	17	16	15 (23)
Olaria	13	5	4	4	11	8	14 (14)
Volta Redonda	13	4	4	5	13	16	12 (21)
Bangu	13	2	6	5	7	10	10 (16)
America/Rio	13	2	6	5	10	16	10 (14)
Campo Grande	13	3	3	7	9	13	9 (13)
Goytacaz	13	2	4	7	8	17	8 (8)
Itaperuna	13	3	2	8	8	21	8 (8)
Madureira	13	1	5	7	5	18	7 (21)

Vasco da Gama also won first round to become automatic champions.

● *Points obtained in both rounds in brackets.*

Sao Paulo State League
Semi-finals (final)
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	6	5	1	0	14	4	11
Portuguesa	6	3	1	2	8	8	7
Ponte Preta	6	1	2	3	5	8	4
Santos	6	1	0	5	5	12	2

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	6	4	0	2	8	7	8
Corinthians	6	3	1	2	12	10	7
Guarani	6	3	1	3	12	9	6
Mogi Mirim	6	1	1	4	5	11	3

Group winners, Sao Paulo and Palmeiras, qualified for final — won by Sao Paulo.

PERU
Play-off for 2nd Libertadores Cup place (final)

1) Sporting Cristal 9pts; 2) Ovacion Sipesa 6; 3) Sport Boys, Alianza Lima 5; 5) Melgar 4; 6) Cienciano 2.

(Sporting Cristal qualify for Libertadores Cup together with champions Universitario.)

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mineros Guyana	9	7	1	1	16	6	15
Caracas FC	9	6	2	1	18	10	14
Minerven	9	5	3	1	19	5	13
Tachira	9	6	1	2	18	10	13
Anzoategui	9	3	5	1	16	8	11
Monagas	9	6	0	3	17	10	12
Maritimo	9	5	2	2	16	9	12
Lara	9	3	5	1	7	5	11
Estudiantes	9	4	2	3	12	5	10
Trujillanos	9	1	7	1	10	9	9
Univ. de los Andes	9	1	5	3	4	6	7
Llaneros	9	1	3	5	7	22	5
Italia	9	1	2	6	9	18	4
Galicia	9	1	1	7	9	22	3
Zamora	9	1	1	7	3	22	3
Portuguesa	9	0	2	7	5	18	2

BOLIVIA
National Championship (2nd round) — final

Group A: 1) Bolivar 8 pts; 2) Wilsterman 7; 3) Blooming 5; 4) San Jose 4.

Group B: 1) Destroyers 8; 2) Oriente Petrolero 7; 3) The Strongest 6; 4) Petrolero 3.

(Top two of each group qualify for final round).

CHILE
First Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	30	17	10	3	56	31	44
Colo Colo	30	18	6	6	68	36	42
Univ. Catolica	30	16	9	5	67	29	41
Univ. de Chile	30	12	10	8	38	29	34
Union Espanola	30	14	4	12	50	46	32
O'Higgins	30	11	7	12	45	43	29
Antofagasta	30	10	9	11	34	35	29
Temuco	30	8	12	10	35	40	28
Coquimbo Unido	30	9	9	12	41	53	27
Palestino	30	10	7	13	44	61	27
La Serena	30	9	9	12	30	34	27
Dep. Concepcion	30	9	9	12	35	47	27
Everton	30	9	8	13	43	47	26
Cobresal	30	9	7	14	35	46	25
Fernandez Vial	30	5	14	11	29	39	24
Huachipato	30	6	6	18	34	67	18

ARGENTINA
National A Division
Opening championship (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	19	10	7	2	24	11	27
River Plate*	18	10	4	4	28	12	24
San Lorenzo	19	9	5	5	24	19	21
Huracan	19	9	4	6	26	22	22
FC Oeste	19	6	10	3	16	10	22
Velez Sarsfield	19	8	5	6	23	15	21
Lanus	19	8	4	6	22	21	20
Belgrano Cordoba	19	7	6	5	21	20	20
Estudiantes	19	7	6	6	20	14	20
Talleres	19	6	8	5	18	20	20
Dep. Espanol	19	7	5	7	19	18	19
San Martin**	19	6	8	5	18	14	18
Dep. Mandiyu	19	5	8	6	21	24	18
Rosario	19	7	4	8	19	29	18
Independiente	19	5	7	7	15	22	17
Racing Club	19	4	7	8	14	20	15
Gimnasia	19	4	7	8	19	27	15
Platense	19	3	8	8	16	21	14
Argentinos Jun*	18	3	7	8	16	24	13
Newell's OB	19	3	4	12	12	31	10

** Match suspended at half-time, River Plate leading 1-0.*

*** Forfeited 2 points (disciplinary measure).*

Relegation averages *(points over last three seasons — two relegated after closing championship): Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata 0,93; Deportivo Mandiyu 0,93; Estudiantes de La Plata 0,92; Talleres Cordoba 0,90; Argentinos Juniors 0,89.*

MEXICO
First Division (halfway stage)
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlante	19	6	6	7	26	23	18
Veracruz	19	7	4	8	29	28	18
Queretaro	19	7	3	9	14	24	17
Santos	19	4	7	8	20	32	15
U. Tamaulipas	19	2	5	12	12	33	9

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	19	13	3	3	41	23	29
U.A. Guadalajara	19	9	8	2	24	12	26
Puebla	19	8	5	6	29	31	21
America	19	8	4	7	25	27	20
Morelia	19	4	7	8	20	30	15

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U. Leon	19	7	7	5	29	24	21
Cruz Azul	19	7	5	7	29	26	19
Atlas	19	7	4	8	26	26	18
Guadalajara	18	6	4	8	20	24	16
U. Guadalajara	19	4	6	9	17	31	14

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	19	10	7	2	27	16	27
Leon	19	9	6	4	34	20	24
Toluca	19	5	9	5	27	21	19
UNAM	19	7	4	7	32	29	18
Pachuca	19	5	5	9	17	20	15

HONDURAS
First Division

After 16 games: 1) Marathon 22 pts; 2) Olimpia 17; 3) Real Espana, Petrotela 16; 5) Platense 15; 6) Motagua 14; 7) Real Maya 12; 80 Victoria 10; 9) Vida 8; 10) Super Estrella 4.

COSTA RICA
First Division

After 9 games: 1) Herediano 14 pts; 2) Turrialba 11; 3) Cartagines 10; 4) Saprissa 9; 5) Puntarenas, El Carmen, Perez Zeledon 8; 8) Alajuelense, San Carlos 6; 10) Ramonense, Limon 5; 12) Guanacaste 4.

EL SALVADOR
First Division

After 16 games: 1) Luis Angel Firpo 23 pts; 2) FAS 21; 3) Alianza 19; 4) Cojutepeque, Baygon-Adet 18; 6) Tiburones, Apaneca 16; 8) Atletico Marte 14; 9) Aguila 13; 10) Fuerte San Francisco 12.

GUATEMALA
First Division

After 15 games: 1) Aurora 23 pts; 2) Suchitepequez 21; 3) Galcasa, Amatitlan 18; 5) Municipal, Comunicaciones 16; 7) Izabal 15; 8) Escuintla, Chiquimulilla 13; 10) De Monte, Tipografia 10; 12) Juventud Retalteca 7.

UNREST MARS TITLE DECIDER

FEW major soccer events pass without incident in Bangladesh.

Enthusiasm vastly outweighs the standard of play.

A large group of agitated soccer-loving students ransacked the vice-chancellor's office at Dhaka University, demanding adequate transport to nearby Mymensingh, to watch their team playing in the final of 17th Sher-e-Bangla Cup National Championship against Khulna District.

The university authorities provided three buses, which were not enough for more than 1,000 students.

Some became violent and damaged windows and showcases.

Taking a university bus outside Dhaka is a breach of regulations, but the students were allowed to go to Mymensingh in all the 15 buses available.

University (left), with nine internationals, clinched their fourth national title beating Khulna 2-0, with goals by Naquib and Roxi.

The start was delayed by 15 minutes as some spectators spilled on to the pitch, and later held up play for a period.

Police had to intervene at least five times as some fans crossed the touchlines, and three University students were injured in scuffles.

AZAM **MAHMOOD**

Egypt take a diminished trophy

EGYPT won the Arab Cup for the first time, with a late goal by Hossam Hassan (above) against Saudi Arabia settling a thrilling final.

But their victory was a somewhat hollow affair, achieved in a tournament that attracted only five other nations. Several withdrew as a result of the anti-Iraq boycott arising from the Gulf War.

The Arab Cup has struggled for survival, and although it is the oldest international tournament staged in Arabia, this was only the sixth to be held.

Tunisia won the first in 1963, and Iraq took the next four, in 1964, 1966, 1985 and 1988. The competition's future appears uncertain, but the latest competition, held in Syria, contained a lot of good football and drew appreciative crowds.

Egypt topped their qualifying group thanks largely to 22-year-old Ayman Mansoor, who had not appeared in an international before. He went on as a substitute against Jordan and scored inside two minutes to earn his country a 1-1 draw, then hit the only goal against Kuwait four days later.

Coach . . . Nelsinho.

Kuwait still qualified for the semi-finals, having beaten Jordan 4-1.

The hosts, Syria, began with a goalless draw against Palestine, watched by 35,000.

Captain Nizar Mahrous, winning his 43rd cap, was carried off with a knee injury as the Palestinians, most of whom play their club football in Syria, put up a surprisingly good performance.

When Ali Ismail scored in the first minute against Saudi Arabia, little Palestine seemed on their way to an even greater surprise. The Saudis took the rest of the first half to recover, then scored twice in three minutes early in the second, to clinch a somewhat unconvincing victory.

So Syria and Saudi Arabia needed only a draw to go through and duly achieved one, but there was no suggestion of collusion: the game was the best of the tournament, with Majed Abdullah — possibly the best Saudi player ever — scoring from a penalty and substitute Mustapha Kadir equalising.

The Saudis, coached by Nelsinho, then eliminated Kuwait, coached by another Brazilian, Paulo. Khaled Messed and Sammy Al Jaber scored the goals that ensured a place in the final.

In the other semi-final, defences prevailed all the way through to a penalty shoot-out, which Egypt won 4-3. That was a reversal of the match in the 1988 Arab Cup, when Syria beat Egypt . . . 4-3 on penalties.

The third-place match was won by Kuwait, 2-1 over Syria. That was one defeat too many for Russian coach Anatoli Ibrahimov, who was promptly sacked after four years in charge.

A goal to each side in the first nine minutes set the pace for a tightly-contested final. Saudi Arabia equalised twice, but Hossam Hassan, one of only four Egyptians remaining from their 1990 World Cup squad, snatched the winner with only five minutes left.

1992 ARAB CUP

Group A *(Damascus)*: Palestine 0 Syria 0; Palestine 1 Saudi Arabia 2; Saudi Arabia 1 Syria 1.

Group B *(Aleppo)*: Egypt 1 Jordan 1; Jordan 1 Kuwait 4; Egypt 1 Kuwait 0.

Semi-finals: *(Aleppo)*: Kuwait 0 Saudi Arabia 2; Egypt 0 Syria 0 *(Egypt 4-3 on penalties).*

Third-place match *(Aleppo)*: Kuwait 2 Syria 1.

Final *(Aleppo)*: Egypt 3 *(Al Shishini, pen, Al Kas, Hossan)*, **Saudi Arabia 2** *(Al Roumi, Al Oweiran)*

ARAB CUP — PREVIOUS WINNERS

1963	Tunisia
1964	Iraq
1986	Iraq
1985	Iraq
1988	Iraq
1992	Egypt

● Saudi Arabia had some consolation by winning the 28th Asian Under-19 tournament in the United Arab Emirates. They beat South Korea 2-0 in the final, but both nations qualified for the World Cup being held in Australia in March.

MOHAMMED **CHBARRO**

Kumar strikes again

AN opportunist goal from skipper and striker Narinder Kumar in the 60th minute helped JCT Mills to win the Durand Cup in New Delhi.

Mohammedan Sporting, who were somewhat lucky to win a place in the final — they beat Border Security Force in the semis 4-3 on penalties — could not grumble over the defeat. JCT Mills were the better side in a poor match, and repeated the victory they obtained in the quarter-final league.

If Mohun Bagan and East Bengal had played in the final the proceedings might have ben a bit more lively, but the two Calcutta teams fell apart for no reason other than over-confidence.

JCT Mills will cherish the victory, their fourth in this 105-year-old competition. They beat all three Calcutta giants inside two weeks, and stopped East Bengal from taking the trophy for the fourth year in a row.

Mills, based in Phagwara, Punjab, had ended Mohun Bagan's hopes of four consecutive Cup victories in 1987. Then, as now, the match-winner came from Narinder Kumar.

DURAND CUP

Group A

JCT Mills v East Bengal	4-2
East Bengal v Punjab Police	1-0
JCT Mills v Mohammedan SC	2-1
Mohammedan SC v Punjab Police	0-0
Punjab Police v JCT Mills	1-0
Mohammedan SC v East Bengal	1-0

Group B

Mohun Bagan v Kerala Police	0-0
Border Security Force v Mahindra & Mahindra	3-0
Mohun Bagan v Mahindra & Mahindra	2-0
Border SF v Kerala Police	2-0
Mahindra & Mahindra v Kerala Police	1-0
Border SF v Mohun Bagan	1-0

Semi-finals

JCT Mills v Mohun Bagan	2-1
Mohammedan SC v Border SF	0-0
Sporting won 4-3 on pens	

Final

JCT Mills v Mohammedan SC	1-0

MOHUN BAGAN took revenge for their defeat in the Durand Cup by beating JCT Mills in the Rovers Cup.

This was Mohun Bagan's 13th victory in the 102 years of the competition. Goals by Kumaresh Bhawal and Chima Okerie secured a 2-0 victory, after Mills had Manjit Singh, sent off.

Both semi-finals went to penalties, Mohun beating Border SF 9-8 and Mills defeating Mohammedan Sporting 4-3.

ROVERS CUP

Group A

Border Security Force v East Bengal	1-0
Mohammedan SC v Churchill Brothers	0-0
Mohammedan SC v Border Security Force	2-1
Churchill Brothers v East Bengal	1-0
East Bengal v Mohammedan SC	1-1
Border Security Force v Churchill Brothers	2-0

Group B

Mohun Bagan v Central Bank	4-0
JCT Mills v Salgaocar	1-0
Mohun Bagan v JCT Mills	0-0
Salgaocar v Central Bank	2-0
Mohun Bagan v Salgaocar	0-0
JCT Mills v Central Bank	3-0

Semi-finals

JCT Mills v Mohammedan SC	0-0
JCT Mills won 4-3 on pens	
Mohun Bagan v Border Security Force	0-0
Mohun Bagan won 9-8 on pens	

Final

Mohun Bagan v JCT Mills	2-0

G.C. **DAS**

PSV EINDHOVEN

PSV EINDHOVEN

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Telephone: (040) 501501.

Founded: 1913.

President: Jacques Ruts.

Coach: Hans Westerhof.

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Cup (6): 1950, 1974, 1976, 1988, 1989, 1990.

Champions' Cup: 1988.
UEFA Cup: 1978.

BACK ROW
(left to right):
Wim Kieft, Ernest Faber, Juul Ellerman, Gica Popescu, Hans Van Breukelen.

FRONT ROW
(left to right):
Romario, Arthur Numan, Edward Linskens, Gerald Vanenburg, Raymond Beerens, Jan Heintze.

Mission Impossible

The Viejo complex may not add to the talent

WHEN Bill Nuttall, the general manager of the United States national team, talks of "centralising our team", he is evidently not thinking in geographic terms.

Mission Viejo, the site of the team's new training camp, is way out west, down in southern California. But . . . it does offer a complex with two fields (one with lights), a clubhouse and training facilities.

For the first time, the US national team have a permanent training site. Fairly soon, players will be training there. Which players?

Players chosen by World Cup coach Bora Milutinovic. Twenty have been invited. The idea is for them to sign a contract with the United States Soccer Federation, under which they will receive around $2,500 a month. And then move, with their families, to Mission Viejo, where the USSF pay for their accommodation.

THE MISSION VIEJO 20

Player	Age	Position	Caps
Desmond ARMSTRONG	28	Defender	45
Marcelo BALBOA	25	Defender	63
Mike BURNS	22	Defender	1
Paul CALIGIURI	28	Defender	56
Mark CHUNG	22	Midfield	7
Fernando CLAVIJO	35	Defender	30
John DOYLE	26	Defender	48
Brad FRIEDEL	21	Goalkeeper	1
Jean HARBOR	27	Forward	2
Chris HENDERSON	22	Midfield	31
Cobi JONES	22	Forward	3
Dominic KINNEAR	25	Midfield	26
Mike LAPPER	22	Defender	5
Tony MEOLA	23	Goalkeeper	57
Janusz MICHALLIK	26	Defender	23
Joe-Max MOORE	21	Midfield	1
Bruce MURRAY	26	Midfield	79
Brian QUINN	32	Midfield	30
Mike SORBER	21	Midfield	12
Peter VERMES	26	Forward	53

The list of invitees includes national team veterans such as goalkeeper and captain Tony Meola (57 caps), midfielder Bruce Murray (79), and defenders Desmond Armstrong (45), Marcelo Balboa (63), Paul Caligiuri (56) and John Doyle (48).

In the super-veteran class there is Fernando Clavijo, the Uruguayan-born defender, whose remarkable fitness, stamina and experience, suggest that he will be a viable candidate for a place on the 1994 team — even at 37.

Incidentally, Clavijo is the only experienced player whose years (37) add up to more than his caps (30). The speed with which the top US players rack up caps — Balboa has acquired his 63 in just four years — suggest that all the top positions in the "most-capped" league table will soon be occupied by Americans.

There are newcomers at Mission Viejo, too. Three players have moved up from the 1992 Olympic squad, all of them California residents.

Joe-Max Moore is the liveliest, a skilful midfielder with a goalscoring instinct. Forward Cobi Jones brings 5'7" worth of speed and tricky dribbling skills, while defender Mike Lapper comes with the reputation of being a hard, man-to-man marker.

Mark Chung and Mike Sorber are two young, unspectacular midfielders whom Milutinovic likes because they obey his tactical instructions with slavish devotion. Yet another midfielder, Chris Henderson already has 31 caps at the age of 22. He was once considered the brightest young star in the country, but bright young things have a habit of losing their gloss early.

Rather amazingly, the US now share a soccer problem with Brazil and Argentina and Uruguay: most of thes best players are with European clubs. There are now close to 40 Americans playing in Europe, mostly at Second or Third Division level.

But the list includes John Harkes at Sheffield Wednesday, Tab Ramos (Real Betis), Eric Wynalda (FC Saarbrucken), Roy Wegerle (Blackburn Rovers), Kasey Keller (Millwall), Thomas Dooley (FC Kaiserslauten), Frank Klopas (AEK Athens), Hugo Perez (Saudi Arabia), Ernie Stewart (Willem II Tillburg) and Brian Bliss (Carl-Zeiss Jena). All either current or former members of the national team.

In Europe . . . Kasey Keller (above).

That is the reality of Milutinovic's situation. That, like Carlos Parreira of Brazil, he has two national teams: one made up of home-based players, one of "Europeans".

When the time comes for the big occasion — the 1994 World Cup — the Europeans are going to be the favoured ones.

Even Meola is likely to lose his place. How can his experience playing in what are basically games arranged for marketing purposes match up to that of Millwall's Kasey Keller, who is playing regularly in the English First Division?

A likely line-up for Milutinovic in 1994 could be: Keller; Caligiuri, Dooley, Balboa, Doyle; Harkes, Ramos, Perez, Wegerle; Stewart, Wynalda.

That includes only three of the Mission Viejo Twenty, a number that could go down to two, as a new name has appeared on the scene.

Peter Woodring, yet another California native, is something of a mystery. He somehow slipped through the cracks of the youth selection system in the US and has never played for any US national team at any level. Yet here he is, at the age of 24, starting in the Bundesliga for SV Hamburg.

In the Viejo 20 . . . Cobi Jones.

PAUL **GARDNER**

TOP US PLAYERS WITH FOREIGN CLUBS

Player	Age	Position	Club	Country	Caps
Brian BLISS	27	Midfield	Carl Zeiss Jena	Germany	36
Thomas DOOLEY	31	Defender	FC Kaiserslauten	Germany	5
Brent GOULET	28	Forward	Tennis Borussia	Germany	17
John HARKES	25	Midfield	Sheffield Weds.	England	42
Kasey KELLER	23	Goalkeeper	Millwall	England	8
Frank KLOPAS	26	Forward	AEK Athens	Greece	19
Hugo PEREZ	29	Midfield	Ittihad	S. Arabia	47
Tab RAMOS	26	Midfield	Real Betis	Spain	35
Ernie STEWART	23	Forward	Willem II	Holland	7
Roy WEGERLE	28	Forward	Blackburn	England	4
Peter WOODRING	24	Midfield	SV Hamburg	Germany	0
Eric WYNALDA	23	Forward	FC Saarbrucken	Germany	41

In action . . . Fernando Clavijo (below).

Seven in a record season

THE 1993 American Professional Soccer League season includes a record 24 matches for each of the seven clubs.

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92	Estonia v Switzerland	0-6
09.09.92	Switzerland v Scotland	3-1
14.10.92	Italy v Switzerland	2-2
14.10.92	Scotland v Portugal	0-0
25.10.92	Malta v Estonia	0-0
18.11.92	Scotland v Italy	0-0
18.11.92	Switzerland v Malta	3-0
19.12.92	Malta v Italy	1-2
24.01.93	Malta v Portugal	
17.02.93	Scotland v Malta	
24.02.93	Portugal v Italy	
24.03.93	Italy v Malta	
31.03.93	Switzerland v Portugal	
14.04.93	Italy v Estonia	
17.04.93	Malta v Switzerland	
28.04.93	Portugal v Scotland	
01.05.93	Switzerland v Italy	
12.05.93	Estonia v Malta	
19.05.93	Estonia v Scotland	
02.06.93	Scotland v Estonia	
19.06.93	Portugal v Malta	
05.09.93	Estonia v Portugal	
08.09.93	Scotland v Switzerland	
22.09.93	Estonia v Italy	
13.10.93	Portugal v Switzerland	
13.10.93	Italy v Scotland	
10.11.93	Portugal v Estonia	
17.11.93	Italy v Portugal	
17.11.93	Malta v Scotland	
17.11.93	Switzerland v Estonia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	14	3	7
Italy	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
Scotland	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Portugal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Malta	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Estonia	2	0	1	1	0	6	1

GROUP 2

09.09.92	Norway v San Marino	10-0
23.09.92	Norway v Holland	2-1
23.09.92	Poland v Turkey	1-0
07.10.92	San Marino v Norway	0-2
14.10.92	England v Norway	1-1
14.10.92	Holland v Poland	2-2
28.10.92	Turkey v San Marino	4-1
18.11.92	England v Turkey	4-0
16.12.92	Turkey v Holland	1-3
17.02.93	England v San Marino	
24.02.93	Holland v Turkey	
10.03.93	San Marino v Turkey	
24.03.93	Holland v San Marino	
31.03.93	Turkey v England	
28.04.93	England v Holland	
28.04.93	Norway v Turkey	
28.04.93	Poland v San Marino	
19.05.93	San Marino v Poland	
29.05.93	Poland v England	
02.06.93	Norway v England	
09.06.93	Holland v Norway	
08.09.93	England v Poland	
22.09.93	Norway v Poland	
22.09.93	San Marino v Holland	
13.10.93	Holland v England	
13.10.93	Poland v Norway	
27.10.93	Turkey v Poland	
10.11.93	Turkey v Norway	
16.11.93	San Marino v England	
17.11.93	Poland v Holland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	15	2	7
England	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
Holland	3	1	1	1	6	5	3
Poland	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Turkey	4	1	0	3	5	9	2
San Marino	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

GROUP 3

22.04.92	Spain v Albania	3-0
28.04.92	Northern Ireland v Lithuania	2-2
26.05.92	Rep. of Ireland v Albania	2-0
03.06.92	Albania v Lithuania	1-0
12.08.92	Latvia v Lithuania	1-2
26.08.92	Latvia v Denmark	0-0
09.09.92	Rep. of Ireland v Latvia	4-0
09.09.92	Northern Ireland v Albania	3-0
23.09.92	Latvia v Spain	0-0
23.09.92	Lithuania v Denmark	0-0
14.10.92	Denmark v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
14.10.92	Northern Ireland v Spain	0-0
28.10.92	Lithuania v Latvia	1-1
11.11.92	Albania v Latvia	1-1
18.11.92	Northern Ireland v Denmark	0-1
18.11.92	Spain v Rep. of Ireland	0-0
16.12.92	Spain v Latvia	5-0
17.02.93	Albania v Northern Ireland	
24.02.93	Spain v Lithuania	
31.03.93	Denmark v Spain	
31.03.93	Rep. of Ireland v Northern Ireland	
14.04.93	Denmark v Latvia	
14.04.93	Lithuania v Albania	
28.04.93	Rep. of Ireland v Denmark	
28.04.93	Spain v Northern Ireland	
15.05.93	Latvia v Albania	
25.05.93	Lithuania v Northern Ireland	
26.05.93	Albania v Rep. of Ireland	
02.06.93	Denmark v Albania	
02.06.93	Latvia v Northern Ireland	
02.06.93	Lithuania v Spain	
09.06.93	Latvia v Rep. of Ireland	
16.06.93	Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland	
25.08.93	Denmark v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Albania v Denmark	
08.09.93	Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania	
08.09.93	Northern Ireland v Latvia	
22.09.93	Albania v Spain	
13.10.93	Denmark v Northern Ireland	
13.10.93	Rep. of Ireland v Spain	
17.11.93	Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland	
17.11.93	Spain v Denmark	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	2	3	0	8	0	7
Rep. of Ireland	4	2	2	0	6	0	6
Denmark	4	1	3	0	1	0	5
Lithuania	5	1	3	1	5	5	5
N. Ireland	4	1	2	1	5	3	4
Latvia	7	0	4	3	3	13	4
Albania	5	1	1	3	2	9	3

GROUP 4

22.04.92	Belgium v Cyprus	1-0
06.05.92	Romania v Faroe Islands	7-0
20.05.92	Romania v Wales	5-1
03.06.92	Faroe Islands v Belgium	0-3
18.06.92	Faroe Islands v Cyprus	0-2
02.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	1-2
09.09.92	Wales v Faroe Islands	6-0
23.09.92	Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands	4-0
14.10.92	Belgium v Romania	1-0
14.10.92	Cyprus v Wales	0-1
14.11.92	Romania v Czechoslovakia	1-1
18.11.92	Belgium v Wales	2-0
29.11.92	Cyprus v Romania	1-4
13.02.93	Cyprus v Belgium	
24.03.93	Cyprus v Czechoslovakia	
31.03.93	Wales v Belgium	
14.04.93	Romania v Cyprus	
25.04.93	Cyprus v Faroe Islands	
28.04.93	Czechoslovakia v Wales	
22.05.93	Belgium v Faroe Islands	
02.06.93	Czechoslovakia v Romania	
06.06.93	Faroe Islands v Wales	
16.06.93	Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Wales v Czechoslovakia	
08.09.93	Faroe Islands v Romania	
13.10.93	Romania v Belgium	
13.10.93	Wales v Cyprus	
27.10.93	Czechoslovakia v Cyprus	
17.11.93	Wales v Romania	
17.11.93	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	5	5	0	0	9	1	10
Romania	5	3	1	1	17	4	7
Wales	4	2	0	2	8	7	4
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	6	3	3
Cyprus	4	1	0	3	3	6	2
Faroe Islands	5	0	0	5	0	22	0

GROUP 5

13.05.92	Greece v Iceland	1-0
03.06.92	Hungary v Iceland	1-2
09.09.92	Luxembourg v Hungary	0-3
07.10.92	Iceland v Greece	0-1
14.10.92	Russia v Iceland	1-0
28.10.92	Russia v Luxembourg	2-0
11.11.92	Greece v Hungary	0-0
17.02.93	Greece v Luxembourg	
31.03.93	Hungary v Greece	
14.04.93	Luxembourg v Russia	
28.04.93	Russia v Hungary	
20.05.93	Russia v Greece	
20.05.93	Luxembourg v Iceland	
02.06.93	Iceland v Russia	
16.06.93	Iceland v Hungary	
08.09.93	Hungary v Russia	
08.09.93	Iceland v Luxembourg	
12.10.93	Luxembourg v Greece	
27.10.93	Hungary v Luxembourg	
17.11.93	Greece v Russia	

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Russia	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
Hungary	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Iceland	4	1	0	3	2	4	2
Luxembourg	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

GROUP 6

14.05.92	Finland v Bulgaria	0-3
09.09.92	Bulgaria v France	2-0
09.09.92	Finland v Sweden	0-1
07.10.92	Sweden v Bulgaria	2-0
14.10.92	France v Austria	2-0
28.10.92	Austria v Israel	5-2
11.11.92	Israel v Sweden	1-3
14.11.92	France v Finland	2-1
02.12.92	Israel v Bulgaria	0-2
17.02.93	Israel v France	
27.03.93	Austria v France	
14.04.93	Austria v Bulgaria	
28.04.93	France v Sweden	
28.04.93	Bulgaria v Finland	
12.05.93	Bulgaria v Israel	
13.05.93	Finland v Austria	
19.05.93	Sweden v Austria	
02.06.93	Sweden v Israel	
16.06.93	Finland v Israel	
22.08.93	Sweden v France	
25.08.93	Austria v Finland	
08.09.93	Finland v France	
08.09.93	Bulgaria v Sweden	
13.10.93	France v Israel	
13.10.93	Bulgaria v Austria	
13.10.93	Sweden v Finland	
27.20.93	Israel v Austria	
10.11.93	Austria v Sweden	
10.11.93	Israel v Finland	
17.11.93	France v Bulgaria	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	7	2	6
Sweden	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
France	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Austria	2	1	0	1	5	4	2
Finland	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
Israel	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92	Algeria v Burundi	3-1
25.10.92	Burundi v Ghana	1-0
20.12.92	Ghana v Algeria	2-0
17.01.93	Burundi v Algeria	0-0
31.01.93	Ghana v Burundi	
26.02.93	Algeria v Ghana	

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Burundi	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Ghana	2	1	0	1	2	1	2

GROUP B

18.10.92	Cameroon v Swaziland	5-0
25.10.92	Swaziland v Zaire	1-0
10.01.93	Zaire v Cameroon	1-2
17.01.93	Swaziland v Cameroon	0-0
31.01.93	Zaire v Swaziland	
28.02.93	Cameroon v Zaire	

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	3	2	1	0	7	1	5
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

GROUP C

11.10.92	Egypt v Angola	1-0
11.10.92	Zimbabwe v Togo	1-0
25.10.92	Togo v Egypt	1-4
20.12.92	Zimbabwe v Egypt	2-1
10.01.93	Angola v Zimbabwe	1-1
17.01.93	Angola v Egypt	— postponed
17.01.93	Togo v Zimbabwe	1-2
31.01.93	Egypt v Togo	
31.01.93	Zimbabwe v Angola	
14.02.93	Angola v Togo	
28.02.93	Egypt v Zimbabwe	
28.02.93	Togo v Angola	

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Egypt	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Angola	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Togo	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

GROUP D

10.10.92	Nigeria v South Africa	4-0
25.10.92	South Africa v Congo	1-0
20.12.92	Congo v Nigeria	0-1
17.01.93	South Africa v Nigeria	0-0
31.01.93	Congo v South Africa	
27.02.93	Nigeria v Congo	

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
South Africa	3	1	1	1	1	4	3
Congo	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

GROUP E

10.10.92	Ivory Coast v Botswana	6-0
25.10.92	Niger v Ivory Coast	0-0
20.12.92	Botswana v Niger	0-1
17.01.93	Botswana v Ivory Coast	0-0
31.01.93	Ivory Coast v Niger	
28.02.93	Niger v Botswana	

★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	3	1	2	0	6	0	4
Niger	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Botswana	3	0	1	2	0	7	1

GROUP F

11.10.92	Morocco v Ethiopia	5-0
11.10.92	Tunisia v Benin	5-1
25.10.92	Ethiopia v Tunisia	0-0
25.10.92	Benin v Morocco	0-1
20.12.92	Tunisia v Morocco	1-1
20.12.92	Ethiopia v Benin	3-1
17.01.93	Ethiopia v Morocco	0-1
17.01.93	Benin v Tunisia	0-5
31.01.93	Tunisia v Ethiopia	
31.01.93	Morocco v Benin	
28.03.93	Benin v Ethiopia	
28.03.93	Morocco v Tunisia	

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	4	3	1	0	8	1	7
Tunisia	4	2	2	0	11	2	6
Ethiopia	4	1	1	2	3	7	3
Benin	4	0	0	4	2	14	0

GROUP G

11.10.92	Gabon v Mozambique	3-1
25.10.92	Mozambique v Senegal	0-1
19.12.92	Gabon v Senegal	3-2
17.02.93	Mozambique v Gabon	1-1
30.01.93	Senegal v Mozambique	
27.02.93	Senegal v Gabon	

★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gabon	3	2	1	0	7	4	5
Senegal	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Mozambique	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

GROUP H

10.10.92	Zambia v Tanzania	2-0
11.01.92	Madagascar v Namibia	3-0
24.10.92	Tanzania v Madagascar	0-0
25.10.92	Namibia v Zambia	0-4
19.12.92	Tanzania v Namibia	2-0
20.12.92	Madagascar v Zambia	2-0
16.01.93	Tanzania v Zambia	1-3
17.01.93	Namibia v Madagascar	0-1
30.01.93	Zambia v Namibia	
31.01.93	Madagascar v Tanzania	
27.02.93	Zambia v Madagascar	
28.02.93	Namibia v Tanzania	

★ *Burkina Faso withdrew, Namibia replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Madagascar	4	3	1	0	6	0	7
Zambia	4	3	0	1	9	3	6
Tanzania	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

GROUP I

20.12.92	Guinea v Kenya	4-0
27.02.93	Kenya v Guinea	

★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
Kenya	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92	Dominican Rep. v P. Rico	1-2
22.03.92	St Lucia v St Vincent	1-0
29.03.92	P. Rico v Dominican Rep.	1-1
29.03.92	St Vincent v St Lucia	3-1

Preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92	Bermuda v Haiti	1-0
25.05.92	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-1
25.05.92	Haiti v Bermuda	2-1
30.05.92	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-1
	St Vincent v Cuba★	

★ *Cuba withdrew.*

St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92	Dutch Antilles v Antigua	1-1
26.04.92	Antigua v Dutch Antilles	3-0
26.04.92	Guyana v Surinam	1-2
24.05.92	Barbados v Trin. & Tobago	1-2
25.05.92	Surinam v Guyana	1-1
31.05.92	Trin. & Tobago v Barbados	3-0

Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round

CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92	Guatemala v Honduras	0-0
19.07.92	Nicaragua v El Salvador	0-5
23.07.92	El Salvador v Nicaragua	5-1
26.07.92	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
16.08.92	Panama v Costa Rica	1-0
23.08.92	Costa Rica v Panama	5-1

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92	Antigua v Bermuda	0-3
05.07.92	Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica	1-2
04.07.92	Bermuda v Antigua	2-1
02.08.92	Surinam v St Vincent	0-0
16.08.92	Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago	1-1
30.08.92	St Vincent v Surinam	2-1

Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round

GROUP A

08.11.92	Costa Rica v Honduras	2-3
08.11.92	St Vincent v Mexico	0-4
15.11.92	Mexico v Honduras	2-0
15.11.92	St Vincent v Costa Rica	0-1
22.11.92	Mexico v Costa Rica	4-0
22.11.92	St Vincent v Honduras	0-4
28.11.92	Honduras v St Vincent	4-0
29.11.92	Costa Rica v Mexico	2-0
05.12.92	Honduras v Costa Rica	2-1
06.12.92	Mexico v St Vincent	11-0
13.12.92	Costa Rica v St Vincent	5-0
13.12.92	Honduras v Mexico	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92	Jamaica v Canada	1-1
18.10.92	Bermuda v El Salvador	1-0
25.10.92	El Salvador v Canada	1-1
25.10.92	Bermuda v Jamaica	1-1
01.11.92	Canada v Jamaica	1-0
01.11.92	El Salvador v Bermuda	4-1
08.11.92	Canada v El Salvador	2-3
08.11.92	Jamaica v Bermuda	3-2
15.11.92	Canada v Bermuda	4-2
22.11.92	Jamaica v El Salvador	0-2
06.12.92	Bermuda v Canada	0-0
06.12.92	El Salvador v Jamaica	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93	Honduras v Canada
04.04.93	El Salvador v Mexico
11.04.93	Mexico v Honduras
11.04.93	Canada v El Salvador
18.04.93	Canada v Honduras
18.04.93	Mexico v El Salvador
25.04.93	Mexico v Canada
25.04.93	Honduras v El Salvador
02.05.93	Honduras v Mexico
02.05.93	El Salvador v Canada
09.05.93	Canada v Mexico
09.05.93	El Salvador v Honduras

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/ Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.

GROUP A

Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93	Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93	Peru v Argentina
08.08.93	Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93	Peru v Colombia
15.08.93	Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93	Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93	Argentina v Peru
22.08.93	Paraguay v Colombia
29.08.93	Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93	Colombia v Peru
05.09.93	Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93	Peru v Paraguay

Gianluca Vialli in action for Italy against Malta.

GROUP B
Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.
08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1
11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2
07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

PLAY-OFF
1st leg
29.05.93 New Zealand v Australia
2nd leg
06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A
22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

GROUP B
28.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲
28.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲
30.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲
02.07.93 Iran v Syria ▲
07.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼
07.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼
09.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼
09.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼
11.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼
11.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar withdrew.*

GROUP C
09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼
▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

GROUP D
07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼
▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

GROUP E
01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼
▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

GROUP F
08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼
▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

And then there were 23 . . . again

LIBERIA have pulled out of the World Cup qualifiers, reducing the number of participating African nations to 23 — the same number as entered the 1990 qualifying tournament.

A record 37 African countries originally entered the qualifiers, but Liberia's withdrawal — following Burkina Faso, Gambia, Libya, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Sao Tome e Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda — brings the total to 11, also a record.

Liberia were forced to postpone their home game against Cameroon last October due to political unrest and, as the situation has not improved, the Federation decided they had no option but to withdraw.

The decision leaves only Cameroon, Swaziland and Zaire in group B, with Liberia's sole match — a 4-2 defeat in Zaire — being wiped from the records and the rest of their qualifiers being cancelled.

Cameroon lead group B and look certain to qualify for the second round following a 0-0 draw away to Swaziland. A 2-1 victory against Zaire in Kinshasa took Cameroon to the top of the table and eliminated the Leopards — the first black African side to reach the World Cup finals, in 1974.

Group A is much closer with Algeria, Burundi and Ghana all still in with a chance. Ghana recovered from their shock defeat in Burundi with a home win over Algeria, goals by Opoku and Kwame Ayew securing a 2-0 victory in front of 40,000 fans in Accra.

Zimbabwe have moved to the top of group C with victories over Egypt and Togo and a draw away to Angola. Coventry City's Peter Ndlovu opened the scoring in the surprise 2-1 defeat of Egypt, before 55,000 fans in Harare.

Egypt's match in Angola was postponed when the match officials from Malawi failed to turn up!

Rachidi Yekini's 22nd-minute goal in Brazzaville sent Nigeria top of group D and eliminated Congo. South Africa held the Nigerians to a 0-0 draw in Johannesburg but the Super Eagles remain favourites to progress; a draw in their final game away to goalless Congo would be sufficient.

Botswana's 0-0 home draw with Ivory Coast resulted in their elimination and put the African Champions top of group E. Only Niger can now catch Ivory Coast. They meet in January in Abidjan already having drawn 0-0 in Niamey.

Group F is proving to be the most exciting with 24 goals scored in eight games. Morocco's 1-0 win in Ethiopia keeps them top of the group but they are being pushed all the way by Tunisia — 5-0 winners away to Benin, where Fawzi Rouissi scored three.

Morocco entertain the Tunisians in the final match of the group in March for what should be the decider, Ethiopia and Benin already are out.

Mozambique's 1-1 draw at home to Gabon was not enough to save them from an early exit in group G, where Gabon and Senegal remain the candidates. The final match — Senegal v Gabon — should be the decider, but before that Senegal must beat Mozambique.

Madagascar, 1-0 winners against Namibia, and Zambia, 3-1 against Tanzania, are slugging it out in group H with two games each left to play. PSV Eindhoven's Kalusha Bwalya scored twice in Zambia's 3-1 success in Dar Es Salaam to keep Zambia in the hunt.

Madagascar beat the Zambians 2-0 at home and a draw when they meet again in late February would give Madagascar the edge, provided they take at least a point from their final home game against Tanzania, who, like Namibia, already are out.

Kenya must retrieve a four-goal deficit against Guinea in what is effectively a knock-out tie, following the withdrawals of Gambia and Mali in group I.

Liberia are the latest withdrawals

The dates for the third and final round in the CONCACAF region have been fixed, with matches every Sunday through April and early May to decide who goes to the United States directly and who must make a detour via Australasia and South America.

The dates present a problem though as they clash with the end of the league season in Europe. FIFA rules stipulate that the players must be released for international duty if they wish to go, but if their clubs are involved in important end-of-season matches there could be some very tough decisions coming up.

Mexico will start the final round as favourites with Canada the outsiders. El Salvador and Honduras, familiar rivals, will be tough opponents for the Canadians, who had the least impressive passage into the last round.

February will be a busy month in the European section with nine ties scheduled.

Italy, who only scraped past Malta, 2-1, in December, face an awkward trip to Portugal in group 1. The Portuguese were impressive in their opening match against Scotland in Glasgow and were unlucky not to come away with both points. The Scots must put the disappointment of the 0-0 draw with Italy behind them and go for goals against Malta.

Rachidi Yekini's goal gave Nigeria victory against Congo.

The Scottish FA have given schoolchildren free tickets for the game, hoping to boost the attendance and vocal support.

England face San Marino, for the first time, with one aim in mind — goals. Norway put 10 past the Republic in Oslo last September and England will need at least half that total at Wembley to stay in contention.

Holland face Turkey at home, little more than two months since beating Sepp Piontek's side 3-1 in Istanbul. Marco Van Basten is doubtful for the game but Anderlecht's Peter Van Vossen is proving a useful replacement — he scored two of the Dutch goals in Istanbul.

The marathon continues in group 3 with Northern Ireland travelling to Albania and Spain entertaining Lithuania. Spain moved to the top of the group with a 5-0 victory over Latvia last December.

The new-look Spanish side, without a single Real Madrid player in the starting line-up, scored three goals in four minutes in the second half in Seville, but will not find things so easy against Lithuania.

Belgium can make it six wins out of six when they play Cyprus in a rearranged tie on the 13th. With home defeats by Wales and Romania already against the Cypriots, there is no reason to feel the Belgians will not maintain their 100 per cent record in group 4.

Greece, the surprise leaders in group 5, have a chance to extend their lead when they play hosts to Luxembourg. This looks like a home banker and the Greeks will need the points with trips to Budapest and Moscow still to come.

France can draw level with Bulgaria and Sweden in group 6 if they take full points from their visit to Israel.

The Israelis already have lost at home to Sweden and Bulgaria, making victory for Gerard Houllier's side all the more important.

EUROPE

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

ANTWERP 2 (Czerniatynski 50, Broeckaert 65)
EKEREN 1 (Claesen 89). **Att:** 6,000.

STANDARD 4 (Vervoort 21, 50, Wilmots 59, Pister 80)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

CHARLEROI 1 (Van Meir 48)
GENK 0. **Att:** 10,000.

LOMMEL 2 (Peeters 48, Haagdoren 59)
WAREGEM 2 (Vidmar 65, Abeels 82). **Att:** 5,000.

MECHELEN 3 (Versavel 12, 55, Van Gompel 75)
LIEGE 0. **Att:** 7,000.

BOOM 1 (Smolders 68)
GENT 1 (De Roover 89). **Att:** 4,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 0
ANDERLECHT 0. **Att:** 20,000.

RWDM 4 (Rubinelson 20, Van Ankeren 40, Kepa 70, 85)
CERCLE BRUGGE 2 (Karacic 66, 76). **Att:** 5,000.

LOKEREN 2 (Nijskens 43, 81)
BEVEREN 2 (Van Ham 41, Lodders 90). **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

MIDWEEK

CUP — Quarter-final

BEVEREN 5
MECHELEN 2

WEEKEND

ANDERLECHT 2 (Nilis 30, 84)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 18,000.

LIEGE 2 (Lehnhoff 44, Ikpeba 63)
ANTWERP 2 (Varga 52). **Att:** 5,500.

BEVEREN 1 (Nwanu pen 68)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 6,500.

GENK 2 (Claessens 24, Bucan 26)
LOMMEL 1. **Att:** 5,000.

GENT 2 (Vandenbergh 78, Vanderlinden 88)
CLUB BRUGGE 3 (De Roover o.g. 15, Staelens pen 72, Verheyen 85). **Att:** 8,000.

LIERSE 4 (Desmet 8, Rekdal pen 19, Huysmans 26, Van Kerckhoven 89)
BOOM 1 (Junior 90). **Att:** 5,000.

CERCLE BRUGGE 1 (Weber pen 22)
LOKEREN 1 (Ogaba 56). **Att:** 3,000.

WAREGEM 0
RWDM 1 (Van Ankeren 80). **Att:** 6,000.

EKEREN 0
STANDARD 0. **Att:** 3,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEEKEND

BEVEREN 0
LIEGE 0. **Att:** 6,000.

EKEREN 7 (Hofmans 17, 41, 84, 87, Claesen 65,Diagne 67, Thamamata 72)
BOOM 0. **Att:** 5,000.

LIERSE 1 (Rekdal 87 pen)
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Verspaille 58, Booy 80). **Att:** 9,000.

GENT 3 (Viscaal pen 24, Porte 69, Van der Linden 75)
CHARLEROI 1 (Livagni 84). **Att:** 7,500.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Albert 4, Nilis 15, 63, Versavel 43)
LOMMEL 2 (Haagdoren 55, Van Geneugden 83). **Att:** 10,000.

GENK 2 (Claessens 33, Goots 49)
RWDM 1 (Robenilson 55). **Att:** 8,000.

WAREGEM 3 (Kurzen 18, 89, Vidmar 73)
LOKEREN 1 (Sanson 15). **Att:** 6,000.

CERCLE BRUGGE 0
MECHELEN 3 (Versavel 17, Eykelkamp 38, Bartholomeeussen 89). **Att:** 3,500.

STANDARD 1 (Van Rooy pen 24)
ANTWERP 5 (Severeyns 12, 51, 68, 80, Lenhoff 48). **Att:** 16,000.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

CAMBUUR 1 (Mols 90)
FORTUNA SITTARD 3 (Hofman 58, 90, Anton Janssen 75). **Att:** 5,500.

VOLENDAM 5 (Den Ouden 17, Molenaar 33, Sier 68, Wasiman 75, Smeets 83)
WILLEM II 1 (Van Gastel pen 70). **Att:** 3,000.

SVV/DORDRECHT 0
UTRECHT 2 (Roest 44, Biji pen 88). **Att:** 3,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

PSV 1 (Linskens 30)
VITESSE 0. **Att:** 24,450.

SVV/DORDRECHT v RKC — *postponed*

GA EAGLES 2 (Rorije 49)
RODA JC 0. **Att:** 5,000.

SPARTA 0
VOLENDAM 2 (Smeets 67, 89). **Att:** 2,000.

FORTUNA SITTARD v AJAX — *postponed*

UTRECHT 1 (Graanoogst 84)
CAMBUUR 1 (Keizer 40). **Att:** 5,495.

GRONINGEN 2 (Hennie Meijer 37, 61)
MVV 1 (Erik Meijer 67). **Att:** 12,422.

TWENTE v DEN BOSCH — *postponed*

WILLEM II 0
FEYENOORD 2 (Fraser 85, Obiku 88). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

WEEKEND

RKC 2 (Waas 40, Stropel 80)
UTRECHT 4 (Smolarek 10, 25, De Kock 19, V.D. Ark 90). **Att:** 3,350.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

WEEKEND

SALGUEIROS 0
FAMALICAO 2

TIRSENSE 2
BRAGA 1

PACOS FERREIRA 2
ESPINHO 2

BELENENSES 1
FARENSE 1

ESTORIL 2
SPORTING LISBON 2

MARITIMO 1
BENFICA 1

PACOS FERREIRA 2
UNIOA MADEIRA 1

ODIVELAS 1
SALGUIEROS 0

FC PORTO 4
JUVENTUDE EVORA 0

CHAVES 0
AMORA 0

***Bye:* SPORTING BRAGA**

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

WEEKEND

GUIMARAES 1
GIL VICENTE 2

BEIRA-MAR 0
CHAVES 0

MARITIMO 0

Sporting's Luis Figo (right) leaves Belenenses defender Mario Denilson floundering.

BEIRA MAR 0
BOAVISTA 2

GUIMARAES 1
FC PORTO 3

GIL VICENTE 1
CHAVES 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

MIDWEEK

SUPER CUP — 1st leg

FC PORTO 1
BOAVISTA 2

WEEKEND

GIL VICENTE 0
FAMALICAO 1

BRAGA 3
SALGUERIOS 1

ESPINHO 1
TIRSENSE 0

FARENSE 2
PACOS FERREIRA 0

SPORTING 3
BELENENSES 0

BENFICA 4
ESTORIL 0

BOAVISTA 2
MARITIMO 1

FC PORTO 0
BEIRA-MAR 0

CHAVES 1
GUIMARAES 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

MIDWEEK

BENFICA 5
PACOS FERREIRA 0

WEEKEND

CUP

INFESTA 0
BOAVISTA 1

SPORTING 2
ACADEMICA 0

BELENENSES 2
LOUSANESE 0

AMADORA 2
FARENSE 0

RIO AVE 1
BENFICA 3

CAMPOMAIORENSE 1
GUIMARES 2

FC PORTO 1

ESTORIL 0
BOAVISTA 0

BELENENSES 1
BENFICA 1

PACOS FERREIRA 0
SPORTING 3

TIRSENSE 0
FARENSE 0

SALGUEIROS 2
ESPINHO 1

FAMALICAO 1
BRAGA 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

MIDWEEK

SUPER CUP — 2nd leg

BOAVISTA 2
FC PORTO 2

(Boavista Won 4-3 on agg)

WEEKEND

BEIRA-MAR 1
GUIMARAES 0

MARITIMO 2
CHAVES 1

ESTORIL 1
FC PORTO 3

BELENENSES 2
BOAVISTA 1

PACOS FERREIRA 0
BENFICA 2

TIRSENSE 0
SPORTING 1

SALGUEIROS 0
FARENSE 0

FAMALICAO 0
ESPINHO 0

BRAGA 0
GIL VICENTE 1

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

MIDWEEK

LUGANO 4 (Sylvestre, Bellosi, Kaslin, Zuffi)
AARAU 1 (Fluri).

WEEKEND

AARAU 3 (Kormornicki, Aleksandrov 2)
LUGANO 1 (Galvao)

RWD Molenbeek's Naessen outjumps Cercle Brugge's Weber (right).

Maritimo's Valido slides in to tackle Boavista's Artur Coimbra during Boavista's 2-1 victory.

GUESS WHAT?
Milan top again

MILAN were the top club in Europe in 1992 according to the annual computer ranking issued by ESM — the European Sports Magazines association of which *WORLD SOCCER* is a member.

Computer ranking points were awarded for clubs' performances in domestic league, domestic cup and European competition. Club rankings then depended on comparative totals.

Marseille were runners-up with Rangers third. But bad news for English football: top club were Manchester United.

		Champ	Cup	Euro	Total
1	Milan	92,455	0,000	83,333	175.788
2	Marseille	49,178	0,000	65,833	115,013
3	Rangers	33,575	0,000	72,500	106,075
4	Eintracht Frankfurt	60,803	21,465	16,675	98,941
5	Juventus	58,801	0,000	41,250	98,151
6	Anderlecht	63,508	0,000	30,000	93,508
7	Real Madrid	57,523	0,000	35,000	92,523
8	Atletico Madrid	54,647	0,000	37,500	92,147
9	Club Brugge	42,337	0,000	48,333	90,670
10	Barcelona	85,045	0,000	25,000	90,045
11	Borussia Dortmund	53,027	0,000	35,000	88,027
12	FC Porto	43,788	0,000	44,167	87,952
13	Parma	52,837	0,000	33,750	56,567
14	Auxerre	45,457	0,000	37,500	85,957
15	Moscow Spartak	43,999	0,000	41,250	85,249
16	PSV Eindhoven	47,143	0,000	37,500	84,643
17	Standard Liege	56,450	0,000	27,500	83,950
18	Ajax	38,077	0,000	45,000	83,077
19	Paris St Germain	48,457	0,000	31,230	78,717
20	Roma	48,773	0,000	27,500	75,273
21	Benfica	35,185	0,000	40,000	75,185
22	Torino	60,888	0,000	13,123	74,011
23	Zaragoza	43,142	0,000	30,000	73,142
24	Bayer Leverkusen	50,502	21,463	0,000	71,965
25	Sparta Prague	28,600	0,000	45,000	71,600
26	Manchester United	54,833	0,000	16,000	70,833
27	Steaua Bucharest	43,324	0,000	26,250	69,974
28	Monaco	50,486	0,000	18,750	69,238
29	Kaiserslautern	45,452	0,000	21,150	66,702
30	IFK Gothenburg	10,804	0,000	55,000	65,804
31	Werder Bremen	58,078	0,000	7,500	65,578
32	Bayern Munich	63,128	0,000	0,000	63,128
33	Norwich City	62,812	0,000	0,000	62,812
34	Antwerp	39,965	0,000	22,500	62,465
35	Dinamo Bucharest	41,879	0,000	20,000	61,879
36	Sampdoria	61,643	0,000	0,000	61,643
37	Liverpool	46,537	0,000	15,000	61,537
38	VfB Stuttgart	47,977	0,000	13,333	61,311
39	Fiorentina	60,966	0,000	0,000	60,966
40	Internazionale	60,966	0,000	0,000	60,966
41	AEK Athens	30,482	0,000	30,000	60,482
42	Dep. La Coruna	60,399	0,000	0,000	60,399
43	Feyenoord	37,321	0,000	22,500	59,821
44	CSKA Moscow	25,666	0,000	33,333	58,999
45	Vitesse Arnhem	33,393	0,000	25,000	58,383
46	Mechelen	47,041	0,000	11,250	58,291
47	Aston Villa	58,159	0,000	0,000	58,159
48	Sheffield Weds.	37,222	0,000	20,825	58,047
49	Leeds United	41,875	0,000	16,000	57,875
50	Atalanta	56,901	0,000	0,000	56,901
51	Lazio	56,901	0,000	0,000	56,901
52	Cagliari	56,901	0,000	0,000	56,901
53	Olympiakos	26,654	0,000	30,000	56,654
54	Partizan Belgrade	44,068	12,483	0,000	56,541
55	FK Austria	23,564	0,000	30,000	56,564
56	Chelsea	53,506	0,000	0,000	53,506
57	Blackburn Rovers	53,506	0,000	0,000	53,506
58	Ipswich	53,506	0,000	0,000	53,506
59	Napoli	32,515	0,000	20,625	53,140
60	Karlsruhe	53,027	0,000	0,000	53,017
61	Genoa	52,837	0,000	0,000	52,837
62	Nantes	52,506	0,000	0,000	52,506
63	Boavista	32,839	0,000	18,750	51,589
64	Red Star Belgrade	37,449	12,483	0,000	49,932
65	Sporting Lisbon	34,554	0,000	15,000	48,554
66	Valencia	48,894	0,000	0,000	48,894
67	QPR	48,854	0,000	0,000	48,854
68	Brescia	48,773	0,000	0,000	48,773
69	Udinese	48,773	0,000	0,000	48,773
70	Foggia	48,773	0,000	0,000	48,773
71	Galatasaray	20,459	0,000	28,125	48,584
72	Koln	32,827	0,000	15,000	47,827
73	Admira Wacker	21,307	0,000	26,250	47,557
74	Sion	17,432	0,000	30,000	47,432
75	Waregem	47,041	0,000	0,000	47,041
76	Gent	47,041	0,000	0,000	47,041
77	Moscow Dynamo	25,666	0,000	21,250	46,916
78	Arsenal	46,527	0,000	0,000	46,527
79	Coventry City	46,527	0,000	0,000	46,527
80	Sporting Gijon	46,018	0,000	0,000	46,018
81	Sevilla	46,018	0,000	0,000	46,018
82	Athletic Bilbao	46,018	0,000	0,000	46,018
83	Caen	30,282	0,000	15,000	45,282
84	Charleroi	44,569	0,000	0,000	44,569
85	Bordeaux	44,428	0,000	0,000	44,428
86	Middlesbrough	44,201	0,000	0,000	44,201
87	Tottenham Hotspur	44,201	0,000	0,000	44,201
88	Real Sociedad	28,761	0,000	15,000	43,761
89	Nurnberg	42,827	0,000	0,000	42,827
90	Strasbourg	42,408	0,000	0,000	42,408
91	RWD Molenbeek	42,337	0,000	0,000	42,337
92	Panathinaikos	21,577	0,000	20,626	42,202
93	Southampton	41,876	0,000	0,000	41,876
94	Manchester City	41,876	0,000	0,000	41,876
95	Fenerbahce	18,897	0,000	22,500	41,497
96	Besiktas	20,997	0,000	20,000	40,997
97	Dynamo Dresden	40,402	0,000	0,000	40,402
98	Schalke 04	40,402	0,000	0,000	40,402
99	Slovan Bratislava	25,333	0,000	15,000	40,333
100	Sigma Olomouc	22,800	0,000	17,500	40,300

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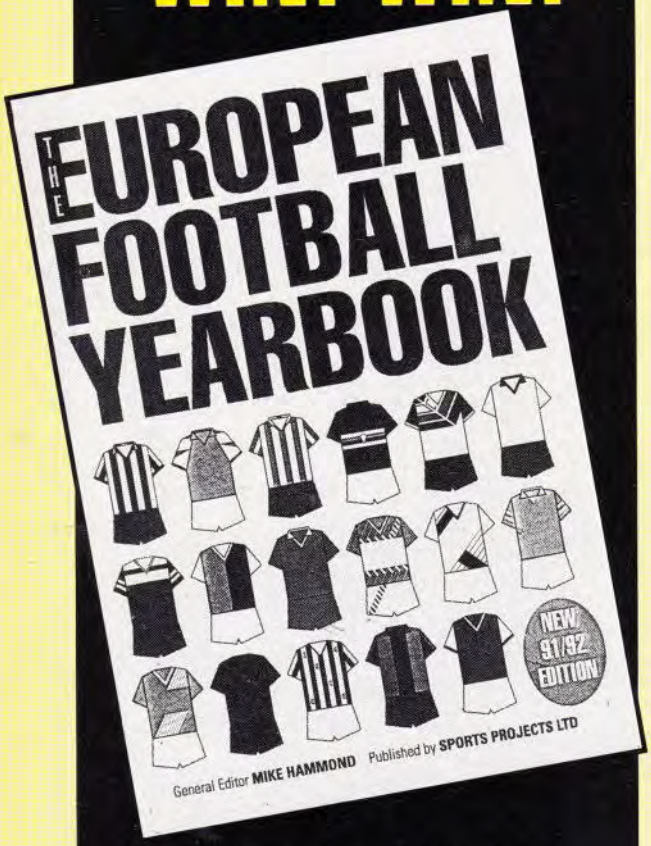
WS FEB. 93

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!



WE are giving away six copies of The EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK, edited by Mike Hammond and published by Sports Projects at £25.00 *(hardback)*.

ANSWER THIS QUESTION:
Name the presidents of Milan, Barcelona and Marseille.

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INTERNATIONAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Dec 13 = Tegucigalpa — WC CONCACAF qual
HONDURAS 1 (Suazo 49)
MEXICO 1 (Uribe 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Escobar (Gua)
Honduras: W Cruz — A Cruz, Yearwood, Castro, Williams — Martinez, Calix, Funes, Obando, Suazo, D Flores.
Mexico: Campos — Suarez, Ambriz, Ramirez, Perales, Garcia — Espana, Bernal, Espinoza (Uribe) — Hermosillo, Zague (Coyote).

Dec 13 = San Jose — WC CONCACAF qual
COSTA RICA 5 (Astua 6, 50, 70, Medford 43, Arnaez 73)
ST VINCENT 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Hall (US)
C Rica: Lonnis — Guthrie, Flores (Delgado 46), Gonzalez, Berry — Montero, Arnaez, Ramirez (Fonseca 25) — Medford, Astua, Ilana.
St Vincent: King — D Brownie, A Brownie, Sutherland, Patrick — Samuels, Melville, Cupid (Velox 53), Jack — Joseph, Du Pont.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Dec 16 = Istanbul — WC Euro gp 2
TURKEY 1 (Feyyaz 60)
HOLLAND 3 (Van Vossen 57, 87, Gullit 59)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)
Turkey: Hayrettin — Recep, Bulent, Gokhan, Ogun, Unal (Hami 77), Oguz, Tugay, Orhan, Saffet (Feyyaz 46), Hakan.
Holland: De Goey — Silooy, R Koeman, Jonk (De Boer 65), Rijkaard, Wouters, Rob Witschge, Gullit, Viscaal, Winter (Numan 76), Van Vossen.

Dec 16 = Seville — WC Euro gp 3
SPAIN 5 (Bakero 49, Guardiola 51, Alfonso 79, Beguiristain 81, 82)
LATVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Toni, Solozabal, Vizcaino, Amor, Claudio (Alfonso 55), Guardiola, Bakero (Martin Vazquez 62), Kiki, Beguiristain.
Latvia: Korovayev — Erglis, Alexeyenko, Valeri Ivanov, Ostafyev, Popkov, Gillis, Stradins, Bulders, Linards, Glazov.

Dec 16 = Porto Alegre — friendly
BRAZIL 3 (Luiz Henrique 38, Bebeto 42, Jorginho 89)
GERMANY 1 (Sammer 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho, Celio Silva, Paulao, Branco — Zinho, Luiz Henrique (Junior 53), Silas (Luisinho 89), Mauro Silva — Bebeto (Romario 68), Careca (Renato 68).
Germany: Illgner — Wolter (Zorc 59), Buchwald, Kohler, Worns, Wagner (K Reinhardt 46) — Effenberg, Hassler (Sammer 80), Matthaus — Klinsmann, Thom (Doll 68).

Dec 16 = Singapore/National Stadium — Merlion Cup, semi-final
SINGAPORE 0
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Park Ji Ho 106)
HT: 0-0. 90min: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

Peter Van Vossen scored twice in Holland's 3-1 victory over Turkey in Istanbul.

Dec 19 = Valletta — WC Euro gp 1
MALTA 1 (Gregory 85)
ITALY 2 (Vialli 59, Signori 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Buhagiar (Joe Camilleri 46), Galea, Brincat, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Saliba (R Vella 73), Gregory, Laferla, C Scerri.
Italy: Pagliuca — Maldini, Di Chiara (Bianchi 46), Baresi*, Costacurta, Eranio, Albertini, Donadoni (Simone 58), Evani, Vialli, Signori.

** Baresi sent off, 68 min.*

Dec 19 = Singapore — Merlion Cup Final
SOUTH KOREA 3 (Lee Gi Bum 34, Yoon Saung Chul 58, Park Nam Yeol 89)
CHINA 1 (Wu Qunli 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000.

Dec 19 — Mwanza — WC Africa gp H
TANZANIA 2 (Lunyamila 47, Felisiani 62)
NAMIBIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000.

Spain's Claudio (left) takes on the Latvia's Glazov.

Brazil's Celio Silva (left) and Mauro Silva close down Germany's Klinsmann during Brazil's 3-1 victory.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Dec 20 = Accra — WC Africa gp A
GHANA 2 (Prince Polley 24, Kwame Ayew 80)
ALGERIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Dec 20 = Harare — WC Africa gp C
ZIMBABWE 2 (Peter Ndlovu 46, Agent Sawu 49)
EGYPT 1 (Abdul Ahmed 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,000.

Dec 20 = Pointe-Noire/Brazzaville — WC Africa gp D
CONGO 0
NIGERIA 1 (Rachid Yekini 22)
HT: 0-1.
Congo: Samba — Baloki, Ntounou, Tsoumou, Mbele, Buitys — Mounkassa, Makita, Okemba (Younga) — Ngapy, Tchibota.
Nigeria: Alloy Agu — Shoukou, Augustine, Keshi, Iroha — Ousheb, Moudiwou, Monye, Finidi — Siasia, Yekini.

Dec 20 = Gaborone — WC Africa gp E
BOTSWANA 0
NIGER 1 (Soumoila Yatanga 32)
HT: 0-1.

Dec 20 = Tunis — WC Africa gp F
TUNISIA 1 (Fawzi Roussi 44)
MOROCCO 1 (Abdelmajid Bouiboul 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Pirot (Bel)
Tunisia: El Ouaer — Hichri, Ben Yahia, Okbi, Chihi — Mahjoubi, A Sellimi (Thabet 73), Bouzaiene (Ben Belgacem 32) — F Rouissi, Hamrouni, Tlemcani.
Morocco: Azmi — El Hadrioui, El Khaled, Naybet, Lashaf (Mdid 46) — Chaouch, Hababi, Samadi, Masbahi — Abrami, Fertout (Fidadi 45).

Dec 20 = Addis Ababa — WC Africa gp F
ETHIOPIA 3 (Hussein 7, Beguashaw 38, Tenker 50)
BENIN 1 (Sasso 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,500.

Dec 20 = Libreville — WC Africa gp G
GABON 3 (Francois Amegasse 37, Guy-Roger Nzamba 62, Brice Makaya 87)
SENEGAL 2 (Papa Jean Lette 34, Souleymane Sane Wall 80)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000.

Action from Uruguay's 4-1 win in Uruguay.

Dec 20 = WC Africa gp H
MADAGASCAR 2
ZAMBIA 0

Dec 20 = Conakry — WC Africa gp I
GUINEA 4 (F Camara 51, Oulare 53, A Titicamara 65, 89)
KENYA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000.

Dec 20 = Montevideo — friendly
URUGUAY 1 (Zorc og 84)
GERMANY 4 (Buchwald 42, Moller 60, Hassler 69, Klinsmann 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,830. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Uruguay: Siboldi — D Sanchez, Moas, Gomez, A Gutierrez, N. Cabrera, Moran, M Saralegui (Carlos Garcia 58), Zalazar, Peletti, Guerra.
Germany: Kopke — Helmer, Thon, Kohler, Buchwald — Moller, Zorc, Matthaus, Hassler (Sammer 84) — Klinsmann (Labbadia 79), Doll (Kirsten 84).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Jan 10 = Kinshasa — WC African Gp B
ZAIRE 1 (Okitakatschi 85 pen)
CAMEROON 2 (Ebongue 50, Thiamir 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000.

Jan 10 = Luanda — WC African gp C
ANGOLA 1 (Russo 62)
ZIMBABWE 1 (Adam Ndlovu 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000.

Jan 10 = Beja — friendly
TUNISIA 3 (Rouissi 6, Ben Yahia 42, Ben Belgacem 74)
BULGARIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.

Jan 10 = Gaborone — friendly
BOTSWANA 0
SOUTH AFRICA 2 (Seale 56, Moshoeu 85)
HT: 0-0.

MERLION CUP (Singapore)

Group B
Dec 14: China 5, Poland Yth 1
South Korea 1, Nitra (Cze) 1
Lok. Moscow 1, Malaysia 1.

Semi-finals:
Dec 16: Singapore 0, South Korea 1 (aet).
Dec 17: China 3, Russia Yth 1.

Final:
Dec 19: South Korea 3, China 1.

BLACK STARS TOURNAMENT (Libreville, Gabon)
Semi-finals
MALI 1
GHANA 1
Mali 5-3 on pens

GABON 1 (Amegasse 44)
BURKINA FASO 1 (Saka Diarra 63 pen)
HT: 1-0.

Third Place Play-off
GABON 2
GHANA 3
HT: 2-2.

Final
BURKINA FASO 1 (Adama Yanogo 119)
MALI 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0.
B Faso: I Diarra — S Diarra, Dao, Zogo, Bambara — Tanogo, O Diop, A Ouattara, B Traore — Mevi, Sanou.
Mali: Diarra Sow — Dembele, Koureissi, Mamadou, Keita, O Cisse — Makan Keita, Tamboura, Kone, Diallo — Y Diop, M Cisse.

OTHER MATCHES

Dec 1: Morocco 1, Charleroi 0
Malaysia 1, Uzbekistan 0.
Dec 5 *(Perth):* Australia U-20 1 (Alagich 46), Brazil U-20 0.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP 1
Oct 13 *(Perth):* **Scotland 0, Portugal 0. Oct 15** *(Cremona):* **Italy 1** (Vieri 53), **Switzerland 0. Nov 17** *(Grenchen):* **Switzerland 4** (Camenzind 15, Margarini 28, Comisetti 30, Karlen 37), **Malta 0. Dec 16** *(Valletta):* **Malta 0, Italy 1** (Galea og 70).

GROUP 2
Oct 6 *(Serravalle):* **San Marino 0, Norway 3** (Strandli 26, Swift 56, Petter 76). **Oct 13** *(Utrecht):* **Holland 1** (Van Gastel 77), **Poland 3** (Hajto 25, Wojciechowski 28, Dabrowski 49); *(Peterborough):* **England 0, Norway 2** (Strandli 2, Haland 67). **Oct 27** *(Ankara):* **Turkey 4** (Hasan 7, Bulent 16, 21, Mustafa 44), **San Marino 0. Nov 17** *(Brisbane Road, London):* **England 0, Turkey 1** (Aydin 76). **Dec 15** *(Istanbul):* **Turkey 1** (Mujdat 21), **Holland 1** (Davids 14).

GROUP 3
Oct 13 *(Copenhagen/Osterbro):* **Denmark 3** (Kristensen 14, Moller 35, 52), **Rep Ireland 2** (Dempsey 5, McGrath 84). **Nov 17** *(Tirana):* **Albania 0, Germany 1** (Unger 21); *(Jerez):* **Spain 2** (Kiko 24, Acosta 27), **Rep. Ireland 1** (McCarthy 65). **Dec 15** *(Osnabruck):* **Germany 1** (Herrlich 37), **Spain 2** (Christiansen 48 o.g., Oscar 65). **Dec 23** *(Osnabruck):* **Germany 4** (Munch 48, Herrlich 75, 89, Haber 88), **Albania 1** (Pali 56).

GROUP 4
Oct 13 *(Seraing):* **Belgium 1** (Crasson 89), **Romania 0;** *(Larnaca/Papadopulos):* **Cyprus 2** (Marios 64, Kiriakos 84), **Wales 4** (Bowen 34, Blake 39, 50, 75). **Nov 13** *(Bucharest):* **Romania 1** (Moldovan 44), **Czechoslovakia 0. Nov 17** *(Kortrijk):* **Belgium 3** (Crasson 25 pen, Goossens 27, Walem 82), **Wales 1** (Lee Jones 21). **Nov 28** *(Paralimni):* **Cyprus 0, Romania 2** (Safta 31, Stinga 74).

GROUP 5
Oct 7 *(Reykjavik):* **Iceland 1** (T Gudjonsson 81pen), **Greece 3** (Mahlas 4, Kostic 73, 88). **Oct 13** *(Moscow):* **Russia 5, Iceland 0. Oct 27** *(Moscow):* **Russia 2** (Sherbakov, Beshchastnikh), **Luxembourg 1** (Cardoni). **Nov 10** *(Edhessa):* **Greece 2, Hungary 1. Nov 11** *(Bucharest):* **Romania 1** (Moldovan 44), **Czechoslovakia. 0. Nov 17** *(Kortrijk):* **Belgium 3** (Crasson 25 pen, Goossens 27, Walem 82), **Wales 1** (Lee Jones 21).

GROUP 6
Oct 6 *(Halmstad):* **Sweden 6** (H Larsson 29, 40, 54, A Bild 65, 86, Jeglertz 89), **Bulgaria 0. Oct 14** *(Beauvais):* **France 6** (Ouedec 8pen, Pedros 12, Nouma 33, Dugarry 41, 55, Vairelles 77), **Austria 1** (Thetis og 44). **Oct 27** *(Vienna):* **Austria 1** (Pirk 15), **Israel 5** (Keisy 20, Revivo 25 pen, 27, Mizrahi 75, Torjman 76). **Nov 10** *(Herzliya):* **Israel 1, Sweden 1. Dec 1: Israel 1, Bulgaria 2.**

SOUTH AMERICA

SUPER CUP (for Libertadores Cup winners) Final (2nd leg)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RACING CLUB (Arg) 1 (Garcia pen)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Juan Escobar.
Cruzeiro win 4-1 on agg
Racing: Roa, Reinoso, Vallejos (F. Torres), Distefano, Costas, Matosas (Cabrol), Paz, Guendulain, C. Torres, Garcia, Graciani.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Paulo Roberto, Luisinho, Celio Lucio, Nonato, Douglas, Luis Fernando, Boiadeiro, Renato, Roberto Gaucho (Arle), Betinho.

● Racing never looked like wiping out their first leg 0-4 deficit even though Cruzeiro often waited for them in defence and after 12 minutes a Brazilian defender had to clear off the goal-line.

A fast, interesting match degenerated in the second half for no apparent reason when Racing players resorted to petty fouls and time wasting which did not really suit them.

The referee did not check this and left Cruzeiro with nine men for the last 15 minutes when Racing got their penalty goal five minutes from the end.

The match ended with fighting among the players — Racing's Garcia was sent off — the usual finish to a South American cup match.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Dec. 8:
La Serena (Chi) 2
Huracan (Arg) 2.

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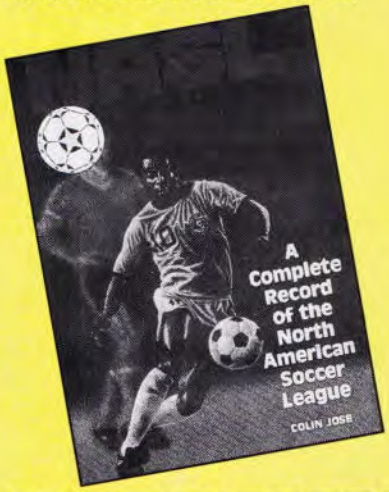

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Two sides of the truth

MY FRIEND Colin Malam, that estimable journalist, son of a former inside-forward, certainly put the cat among the pigeons with his biography of Gary Lineker (published by Stanley Paul).

With characteristic fairness, he offered Graham Taylor the chance to put his own views of his reported clashes with Lineker. Taylor, reticent at first, made his case at some length; a man who will never use a phrase when a paragraph will do.

The result has been continuing controversy, with each side blasting away at the other, ever since the book came out.

For some time before Lineker's bitterly controversial substitution in his final England match, versus Sweden, Taylor had looked askance at him.

Privately, both he and the then Spurs' manager, Peter Shreeves, had expressed certain reservations which might be summed up as a feeling that Lineker's opportunism was being expressed, or indulged, at the expense of the team.

Such charges have been levelled against nature's goal scorers from time immemorial.

They used to say it about the Sheffield Wednesday giant, Derek Dooley, in the early 1950s: "All he does is score goals."

Heidi Rosendahl, the West German athlete, said it of the prolific and remarkable Gerd Muller, piqued when the centre-forward was preferred to her as West German Sports Personality of the year.

Scoring is such a difficult and precarious art, however, that it might, on the whole, be more sensible to be grateful for the goals that you get. Lineker was not finding them too easy to score until he banged three in against Poland in Monterrey during the 1986 World Cup; in which he eventually ended as the top scorer.

When England played France at Wembley last year in what turned out to be a very important friendly, Taylor did not put Lineker on until the second half. Whereupon Lineker proceeded to transform the game. Not only, it has been said, through his own attacking play, but allegedly through advising Taylor at half-time that the central strikers were moving out to the wings too quickly, and should time their runs better.

An unhappy argument could keep running on for years

After the incredibly lucky draw at Wembley against Brazil, Taylor made a pointed remark about England having played with ten men. Now, far from regretting his replacement of Lineker versus Sweden, Taylor has publicly regretted the fact that he did not send on Tony Daley for Lineker in the preceding match against France. Talk about adding insult to injury!

Quite why Taylor should now feel Daley might have made all the difference is somewhat obscure. He did indeed make the difference when England met Sweden, missing two sitters in a minute and letting Sweden off the hook.

After that match, Taylor excused, or tried to explain, Lineker's removal with the alleged need for someone to "hold the ball up."

As was pointed out at the time, the answer then was to bring on Alan Smith, that committed holder up and flicker on . . . and to keep Lineker on with him.

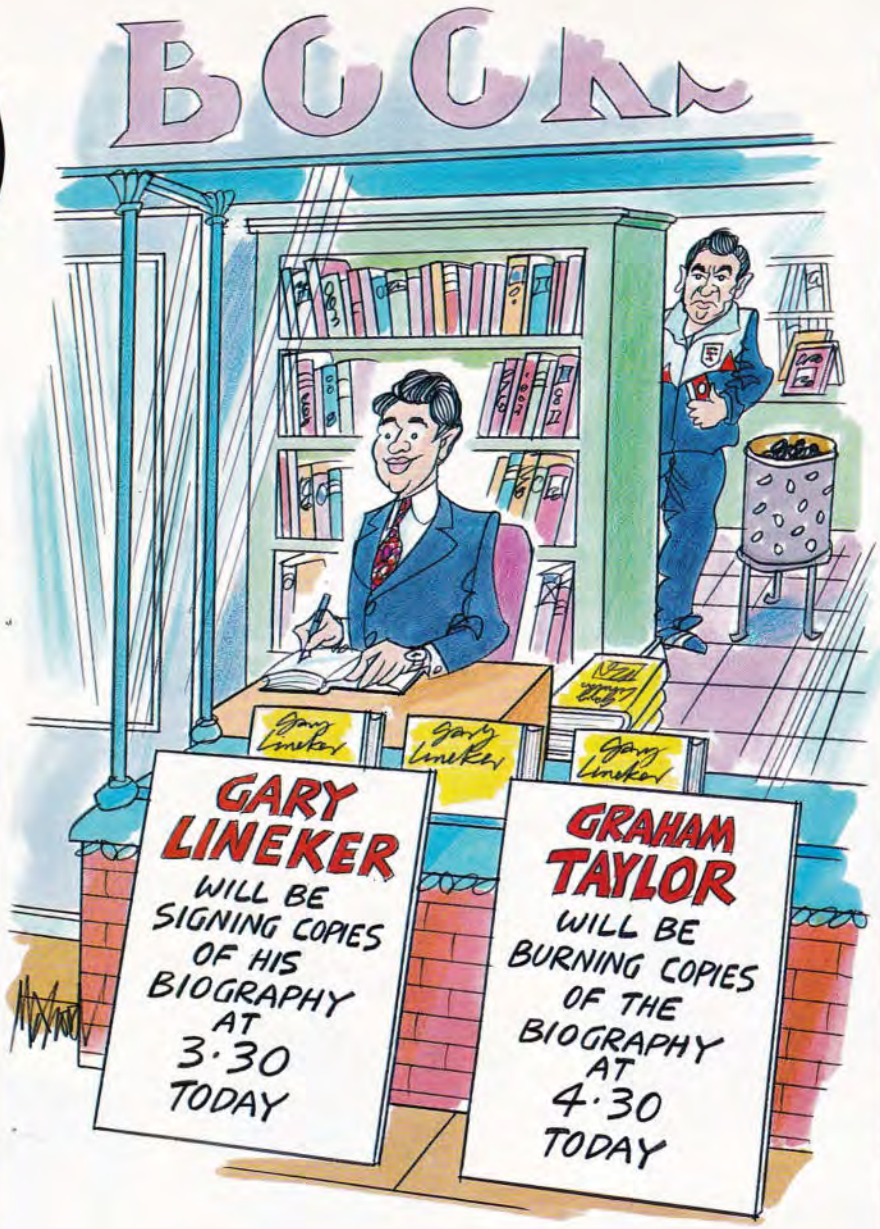
Of course there has been more to it than that. Lineker has angrily rejected any suggestion that he put himself before the interests of the England team when joining the meaningless summer tour of 1991 late, after playing for Spurs in Tokyo.

Terry Venables, he has pointed out, begged him to take part in the Tokyo game for the sake of Spurs, whose finances then were in tatters. Talking about his eventual Japanese contract, if he did, was a wholly secondary matter. In any event, the England tour was an ill-judged excrescence; and when he did join it, in Malaysia, Lineker scored goals galore.

Whether Taylor took Lineker off in Stockholm that sad day as an act of policy or whether, consciously or unconsciously, there were what might politely be called subjective reasons, could be argued to eternity.

We know what Taylor says. We know what Lineker thinks.

I don't doubt that each in his own mind is telling the truth.



A flawed

DE MORTUIS, NIL NISI BONUM. Speak nothing but good of the dead. In the case of Gianni Brera, who has died a sad, random death in an Italian motor accident, I find it a little hard to follow the maxim.

Brera was unknown in Britain, but in Italian sports journalism he was a kind of demi-god. I knew him, more or less — more at the beginning, since 1958; and the World Cup, in Sweden.

For 16 years, I thought of him as a friend. For the last 14, I regarded him as an enemy. Not only of myself but of the greater interests of the game, themselves depending upon honesty and truth.

Brera was a small, stocky man from Lombardy, given to telling people he was not an Italian but a Lombard; one of his quaint conceits. Later, when the Lombard League had sprung to vigorous political life, sweeping all before it in many Italian cities, fed up with the "clientism" and corruption of the South, he had been able to see his whimsies made flesh.

We don't have Brera's kind of idiosyncratic, self-regarding, hierarchical sports journalist in Britain now. I suppose the nearest we came to it was in the shape of Peter Wilson, much given to surrounding himself with

conscience

acolytes, and Jim Manning. Geoffrey Green, *The Times* football correspondent, was far too modest and Bohemian a figure ever to strike such poses.

Brera at his best was greatly intelligent, cuttingly funny and original. I enjoying working for him, from time to time, at World Cups and the like.

When, in 1974 in *The Sunday Times*, Keith Botsford and I blew the whistle on the Italian corruption of European referees, which had been going on for over a decade, I imagined, in my naivety, that

Not so poor . . . the incomparable Franco Causio.

Gianni is being hailed beyond the grave

Brera would be incensed by what we revealed; that he would furiously join in the crusade.

I wonder now how I could have been so ingenuous. For Brera, renowned as the conscience of Italian football, whose theories had much influenced the Italian games, turned from friend to foe. We never spoke again.

I'm sure Brera's savagery was largely induced by the fact that he knew we had betrayed his trust.

He must have known how Internazionale, in the high old days of president Angelo Moratti and secretary Italo Allodi, sent Dezso Solti round Europe to suborn referees. He must — he, the "conscience" of Italian football — have known that his silence had been shameful.

All the more ironic, then, to read the infinite tributes to him, praising him for his integrity, his moral leadership. Nil nisi bonum.

In fact, for some time there had been a reaction to Brera's often strange, dark views. As an embattled "Lombard," he despised the Deep South.

Once, when Juventus were playing Derby in Turin in 1973, in the later to be notorious Champions' Cup semi-final, he handed me a note. That's why Juventus are so poor, he said, with a smile.

The note bore the names of the several Juve players who came from the South. One of them was the incomparable Franco Causio!

Tactically, Brera's influence on the Italian game was a deeply sterile one.

"Brera has taught us all," Giampiero Boniperti, when president of Juventus, once smiled at me. Taught them, that's to say, that the Italian, for all his Lombard posturing, was physically inferior to the Nordics, who could be conquered only by cunning; catenaccio, breakaways and the like. Theories which, in the Arrigo Sacchi era, have come to look absurd.

I'm sorry that I fell out with Brera, sorry that a long friendship came so bitterly to grief, sorry that, at the age of 73, he should die in so wretched a way.

His life, his views, his fundamental dishonesty, and the way he was lauded just the same, in some sense constitute a paradigm of modern Italy. But it's an Italy which seems, thank goodness, to be changing.

Pull the other one, Silvio

SILVIO BERLUSCONI still seems to be a menace to football. Nor am I alone in thinking this.

Franz Beckenbauer has been among the latest salient figures to attack Milan's stock-piling of players and deplore its effect on the game. Even Sepp Blatter, the secretary of FIFA, prophet of five-a-side football and promoter of the kick-in, has emerged on the side of the angels.

Having trashed international football as the preserve of chauvinists — this in a country with a national team so passionately followed — Berlusconi has faced us with the appalling prospect of a league in which each club, from the different countries, will be backed by a major company.

In the same revealing interview, he showed that he has a short and selective memory. Nostalgically, he recalled the days of Grenoli, the Milan inside-forward trio of brilliant Swedes, Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm. He had wanted, he said, to constitute a new, Dutch trio: hence Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard.

Pull the other one, Silvio, sweetie! You didn't even want Frank Rijkaard, and very nearly sacked Arrigo Sacchi because he had the guts to stand up to you, preferring Rijkaard to the one you wanted, Claudio Borghi, benched by two successive managers of Como, where he was on loan.

Not sacked . . . coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Sacchi got his way in the end — luckily for you. Poor Borghi has since rolled around South America, rejected by one club after another, an undoubted talent who has somehow never managed to fulfil himself.

Still, if you are as rich as Berlusconi, the temptation to re-write history must be great.

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